CITY HILIGHTS

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Vijayendra eyes stronger grip on Karnataka BJP through BSY Abhimanotsava event

By highlighting Yediyurappa's legacy, Vijayendra aims to unite cadres and strengthen organisational authority.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The 'BSY Abhimanotsava' scheduled in Chitradurga on May 9 to commemorate former Chief Minister B. S. Yediyurappa completing 50 years in public life is emerging as more than just a celebratory event. Within the Karnataka BJP, the programme is increasingly being viewed as a strategic exercise by state president B. Y. Vijayendra to consolidate his leadership position amid continuing factionalism in the party.

Though officially projected as a tribute to Yediyurappa's political journey and contribution to the BJP's rise in Karnataka, party insiders indicate the scale and timing of the event carry larger organisational significance. With multiple power centres continuing to influence party affairs after Yediyurappa's retirement from electoral politics, Vijayendra is seeking to establish stronger authority ahead of upcoming electoral challenges.

Since taking over as Karnataka BJP president nearly 30 months ago, Vijayendra has faced criticism from sections of the party over the BJP's struggles in the state. Some leaders privately argue that he has not yet managed to revive the party's momentum in the way his father once did. Against this backdrop, the Abhimanotsava is expected to serve as a public demonstration of organisational strength and cadre mobilisation.

Yediyurappa's enduring influence among Lingayat voters, a crucial support base for the BJP in Karnataka, remains central to this strategy. By foregrounding his father's legacy, Vijayendra is attempting to bridge internal divisions and rally workers around a leadership figure who still commands wide acceptance within the party.

The invitation extended to Union Home Minister Amit Shah has further heightened political significance surrounding the programme. Party sources believe Shah's presence would send a strong signal about Vijayendra's acceptability to the BJP's central leadership and could influence ongoing internal equations in the state unit.

Senior leaders including R. Ashoka, Jagadish Shettar and Govind Karjol have already expressed support for Vijayendra. However, the response from other senior functionaries who have maintained distance from his leadership will be closely watched.

Political observers note that while legacy politics can unify cadres, it also carries limitations if not backed by sustained organisational results. With the next Assembly elections still two years away, the event may appear premature to some. Nevertheless, the Abhimanotsava is expected to test Vijayendra's ability to manage factions, coordinate large-scale mobilisation and project an image of unity within the Karnataka BJP.

QUICK READ

Tender coconut seller booked for attacking stray dog in KR Pura

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Police have launched a search for a tender coconut seller accused of attacking a stray dog with a sickle in KR Pura. An FIR has been registered against the unidentified man under BNS Section 352 and provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. According to police, the incident occurred at Muniyappa Layout in KR Pura II Stage around 8.30 am on April 25. A video of the incident reportedly shows the man entering a house compound with a sickle after claiming the stray dog barked at him. Despite efforts by house owner Siddalingappa to calm him, the man allegedly attacked the dog.

Homemaker dies in suspected washing machine electrocution

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A 31-year-old homemaker died after allegedly suffering an electric shock from a washing machine near Nelamangala on the outskirts of Bengaluru. Police identified the victim as C Sujatha, who had celebrated her 11th wedding anniversary a day earlier. According to police, Sujatha attempted to switch on the washing machine around 8 am when she collapsed. Family members rushed her to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared her dead. However, her relatives have sought a detailed investigation, suspecting the death may not have been accidental. Sujatha is survived by her husband Chethan and their nine-year-old son. Police are investigating the case.

Six foreign women arrested in prostitution-related case

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) police arrested six foreign women near the Koramangala checkpost for allegedly encouraging prostitution by soliciting men on the roadside. Police said the women were reportedly standing on the road and approaching passersby for sexual services. Acting on specific information, CCB officials conducted a raid and detained all six women for questioning. Authorities are currently verifying their passports and visa documents to check for any violations. A case has been registered at the Koramangala police station, and further investigation is underway to determine the circumstances surrounding the incident and possible involvement.

Woman loses Rs 80,000 meant for children's school fees on BMTC bus

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A 39-year-old woman's attempt to arrange money for her children's school fees ended in distress after Rs 80,000, borrowed from her younger sister, was allegedly stolen while travelling on a crowded BMTC bus in Bengaluru.

The incident took place when Pankaja, a resident of A Narayanapura in Mahadevapura, boarded BMTC bus route number 317 from the City Market bus stand towards Tin Factory.

According to the complaint filed with City Market police, Pankaja's family has been facing financial difficulties, prompting her to seek help from her sister Rathnamma. Earlier that day, Pankaja had visited KIMS Hospital to see a cousin who was admitted following an accident.

Later, she visited Rathnamma's new house in Hanumanthanagar, where her sister handed over Rs 80,000 in cash to help pay school fees for Pankaja's two children. She reportedly kept the money inside her vanity bag. Rathnamma also gave her a bag of rice before she left for home.Pankaja travelled by BMTC bus to Victoria Hospital bus stop and then walked to the City Market BMTC stand, where she waited nearly 30 minutes for bus number 317.She told police that she had checked the cash just minutes before boarding the bus around noon. However, while entering the crowded bus, she was pushed by commuters. Although she initially managed to get a seat, she later offered it to an elderly woman believed to be in her 70s and remained standing in the packed vehicle.

Karnataka seeks extension for delayed Green Energy Corridor project

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka's ambitious plan to strengthen renewable energy transmission infrastructure under Phase II of the Green Energy Corridor project has run into delays, prompting the state government to seek an extension of the completion deadline until July 31 next year.

The project, sanctioned by the Centre for states with significant renewable energy generation, is aimed at creating dedicated transmission infrastructure to evacuate solar and wind power into the national grid. Karnataka, one of India's leading renewable energy producers, was among the key beneficiaries selected under the programme.However, execution of the project has slowed considerably due to land acquisition challenges and difficulties in securing right of way for transmission lines and substations. Officials said these issues have emerged as the biggest obstacles in completing the project within the original March 31 deadline.The Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL), the implementing agency, has so far completed nearly 50 percent of the project work.Launched in 2022, the second phase of the Green Energy Corridor project in Karnataka involves construction of 938 circuit kilometres of transmission lines along with substations having a combined capacity of 1,225 MVA. The infrastructure is expected to facilitate evacuation of nearly 2,640 MW of renewable energy across the state.

The estimated cost for Karnataka project is Rs 1,036 crore and the central grant at 33 percent of the project cost is about Rs 342 crore, of which Rs 108 crore has been disbursed.

In a letter dated April 16 addressed to the Secretary of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Additional Chief Secretary (Energy) Gaurav Gupta cited several unforeseen challenges that had delayed implementation. Gupta stated that despite sustained efforts by the state government and KPTCL, progress was hindered by persistent right of way issues and delays in certain technical components of the project. One such delay involved the loop in loop out of the second circuit of the existing 220 kV Mahalingapura-Kudachi double-circuit line at the 220 kV Athani substation. Officials said the work order for the component could be issued only in January 2026 after conducting a fresh survey owing to anticipated right of way concerns.According to data shared by the Ministry, 498 circuit kilometres of transmission lines and substations with 600 MVA capacity had been completed as of March 31. KPTCL has already awarded all 10 project packages.

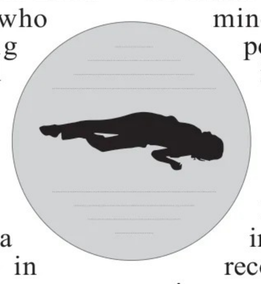
The Green Energy Corridor programme envisages a total investment of Rs 11,369 crore nationwide. States are required to bear 67 percent of the project cost through internal resources or borrowings.

Woman found dead in locked Adugodi flat; police probe mysterious circumstances

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A 34-year-old woman was found dead under mysterious circumstances inside her locked rented house in Bengaluru's Adugodi area, with police recovering her decomposed body lying in a pool of blood late Monday night.

The deceased has been identified as Puja Dutta, a native of Hirapur in Dhanbad, Jharkhand, who had been living alone on the third floor of a multi-storey residential building in Adugodi for the past three years while working at a private company in the city.



The incident came to light after neighbours noticed a strong foul smell emanating from her flat and alerted the house owner, Janakamma, who then informed the police.

According to police, when officers reached the spot, the house was found locked from inside. A locksmith was called to break open the door. Upon entering the flat, police discovered Puja's body in a naked and highly decomposed condition, suggesting she may have died at least three days earlier.

Investigators also found blood stains on the floor, torn papers scattered across the room and a table fan switched on beside the body, adding to the mystery surrounding the death.

Police said the exact cause of death would be determined only after the post-mortem examination.

The body has been shifted for autopsy.

Adugodi police have begun examining Puja's phone records and questioning people known to her in an effort to reconstruct her final movements and interactions.

House owner Janakamma told police that Puja was unmarried and generally kept to herself, though she mostly communicated in Hindi with neighbours and tenants.

She said two young men staying in a nearby rented house first complained about the foul smell coming from Puja's flat.

"I suspect it may have been suicide because the door was bolted from inside with three latches.

The locksmith had to break it open using a hammer," Janakamma said, adding that there were visible cut marks on the woman's body.

She also revealed that a man frequently visited Puja and that the two often argued loudly, though the nature of their relationship and the reasons for their disputes remain unclear.

According to Janakamma, Puja had earlier been warned for playing loud music through a large speaker in her room, which disturbed other residents in the building.

"I had asked her to vacate the house after repeated complaints. She argued with me," the owner said.

Janakamma further stated that she last saw Puja on Thursday when a prospective tenant had come to inspect the property.

Police are now attempting to identify and trace the frequent male visitor while investigating whether the death was a suicide or involved foul play.

Bengaluru police arrest 24 in IPL black ticket crackdown

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru City Police have intensified their crackdown on the illegal sale of IPL tickets, arresting 24 people and seizing 37 tickets during a month-long drive conducted around the ongoing IPL 2026 matches at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

According to police officials, a total of 17 cases related to black marketing of IPL tickets have been registered in the last one month.

Of these, 16 cases were booked at Cubbon Park Police Station, while one case was registered at Halasuru Gate Police Station.

Police said the accused allegedly procured match tickets through various means and attempted to resell them at inflated prices to cricket fans desperate to attend the matches.

Most of the arrests were made by the Central Crime Branch (CCB), which launched a special operation to monitor and curb illegal ticket sales during the IPL season.

Woman booked for allegedly trying to torch brother's house over property dispute

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A long-standing property dispute between siblings allegedly turned violent after a woman and her family vandalised her brother's house and threatened to set it on fire in Byrasandra, south Bengaluru.

According to police, S Ashwini (35), a resident of 9th Cross, filed a complaint stating that she lives with her husband Umesh and their children on the ground floor of a four-storey building owned by the family.

Ashwini said the property originally belonged to Umesh's father and was later transferred to Umesh, who subsequently constructed additional floors on the building. However, a civil dispute regarding ownership is currently pending in court between Umesh and his elder sister Meenakshi.

Police said Meenakshi, accompanied by her husband and children, allegedly entered the premises and vandalised the house by damaging doors, windows and CCTV cameras.

In her complaint, Ashwini alleged that Meenakshi abused family members using foul language and issued threats during the confrontation.

She further claimed that her sister-in-law poured petrol around the house and threatened to set the building ablaze.

After the situation escalated, Ashwini contacted the police helpline 112. Hoysala police personnel rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

A police officer said the family has been involved in frequent disputes over the property matter.

Investigators are also examining CCTV footage recorded before the cameras were damaged.

Further inquiry is underway.

HEALTH HAZARD

Traffic noise emerging as major health threat for Bengalureans, warn doctors

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru's worsening traffic congestion is no longer just an inconvenience for commuters but is increasingly becoming a serious public health concern, with doctors warning that prolonged exposure to traffic noise is contributing to rising hearing-related disorders among residents.

Medical experts say constant exposure to noise levels ranging from 70 to 100 decibels (dB) on the city's roads is affecting people across age groups, particularly those spending long hours in traffic or living near busy roads and junctions.

According to doctors, Bengaluru's traffic noise frequently exceeds safe limits, with several residential and commercial areas regularly recording noise levels above 60-70 dB, while major traffic corridors witness even higher levels during peak hours.

Dr Jyotirmay S Hegde, Head of Department and Lead Consultant, ENT, Aster Whitefield Hospital, said sustained exposure to sound levels above 70 dB significantly increases the risk of hearing impairment.

"The concern is not just occasional exposure but the continuous nature of the noise. People are exposed during commuting, through constant honking, and even while staying near busy roads. Studies indicate that the risk of tinnitus rises with every 10 dB increase in traffic noise," he explained.

Doctors say the symptoms often develop gradually, making early diagnosis difficult. Tinnitus, a persistent ringing sensation in the ears, is usually the first warning sign. This may later progress to difficulty understanding speech in noisy surroundings, muffled hearing and a blocked-ear sensation.If left unchecked, the condition can develop into mild or moderate sensorineural hearing loss.

Apart from hearing-related complications, specialists are also observing a rise in non-auditory symptoms linked to excessive noise exposure, including headaches, irritability, sleep disturbances, reduced concentration, ear discomfort and increased sensitivity to sound.Adding to the concern is the growing use of earphones and headphones during daily commutes.Dr Shantanu Tandon, Senior Consultant, ENT, Sakra World Hospital, said many commuters tend to raise the volume of their devices to drown out surrounding traffic noise."Over time, this permanently damages delicate hair cells in the inner ear, leading to tinnitus, reduced hearing clarity and early hearing loss. Young adults are particularly vulnerable," he said.

Dr K Jisha, Consultant-ENT at Kauvery Hospital, Marathahalli, pointed out that despite regulations governing honking and permissible noise levels, enforcement remains weak.She noted that the city's dense traffic conditions and rampant honking culture continue to worsen the problem, even affecting silence zones near hospitals and schools.

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WEDNESDAY ▸ APRIL 29, 2026 ▸ VOL: 11 ▸ ISSUE: 284 ▸ PAGES 12 ▸ ₹2.00

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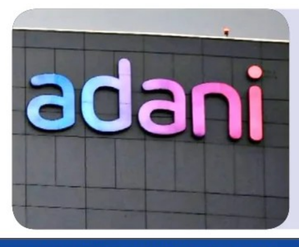
Aussie min issues urgent plea for reef protection P10



Adani Group pledges billions for India's AI P11

P12

Axar Patel blames luck, hesitation for DC collapse

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Centre rules out fuel price hike

Despite soaring global crude prices and heavy losses to fuel retailers, govt rules out any immediate hike in petrol and diesel rates, even as panic buying and supply concerns emerge in some states

NEW DELHI

Amid rising crude oil prices and speculation of a post-election hike, the government on Tuesday said there is no plan to increase petrol and diesel prices after polling ends in West Bengal on April 29.

The assurance comes even as global oil markets remain volatile and fuel retailers face mounting losses.

The clarification follows reports of panic buying in parts of the country, especially Andhra Pradesh, where rumours of a price hike led to long queues at petrol pumps.

More than 400 fuel stations reportedly ran dry on Sunday, with demand rising by as much as 30–33% at some outlets. "We have seen panic buying in some places. We are in continuous contact with state governments," said Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

"All retail outlets are being monitored and supplies are being prioritised so that stock availability is ensured and there are no dry-outs," she said.

Dismissing speculation, Sharma made it clear, "There is no proposal to increase petrol and diesel prices."

She also urged the public not to rely on rumours. "I want to urge everyone to please don't believe in rumours. Avoid panic buying and rely on official sources for information."

According to the government, the country has adequate stocks of petrol, diesel, LPG and aviation turbine fuel to meet demand.

"We have enough supplies of LPG, petrol and diesel. Prices are stable and there has been no increase in rates," she said.

Pressure builds on fuel retailers

The government's position comes despite growing financial strain on state-run oil companies, which are selling fuel below market rates.

Officials say losses are significant, with estimates suggesting daily losses of around Rs 2,400 crore. Earlier, Sharma had said oil firms were losing about Rs 20 per litre on petrol and nearly Rs 100 per litre on diesel.

Global oil surge adds to concerns

Global crude prices have surged sharply over the past two months, rising more than 50 per cent amid tensions in West Asia. Prices spiked after US and Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28 and Tehran's retaliation, which disrupted movement through the Strait of Hormuz, a key route that handles nearly a fifth of the world's oil trade. Crude, which was around USD 70 per barrel last year, has averaged over USD 114 this month.

Prices frozen for 4 years

Despite the surge, retail fuel prices here have remained unchanged since early April 2022. Petrol currently costs Rs 94.77 per litre in Delhi, while diesel is priced at Rs 87.67. While oil companies earlier balanced losses with profits during periods of lower crude prices, the current gap between global and domestic rates has widened sharply.

Airline industry on verge of 'stopping operations'

NEW DELHI

Warning that the country's aviation industry is under "extreme stress and on the verge of closing down or of stopping its operations", the Federation of Indian Airlines (FIA) has written to the government seeking revision of ATF pricing and temporary suspension of excise duty on jet fuel for domestic operations.

The FIA, which represents Air India, IndiGo and SpiceJet, said the "dire condition" of the aviation industry has also been exacerbated by the West Asia crisis, which has led to air space closures leading to additional expenses.

Seeking urgent intervention on the current Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) ad hoc pricing, it said this is "creating severe imbalance" in domestic and international operations and rendering airline networks unviable and unsustainable.

Iran in a state of collapse: Trump

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday said Iran is in a "State of Collapse," while claiming that Tehran has asked Washington to reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

Trump also reiterated that Iran was facing a leadership crisis.

"Iran has just informed us that they are in a 'State of Collapse.' They want us to 'Open the Hormuz Strait,' as soon as possible, as they try to figure out their leadership situation," Trump wrote on Truth Social.

Efforts to end the West Asia conflict appeared stalled on Tuesday, with the United States saying it is considering Tehran's latest proposal to unblock the Strait of Hormuz, even as Iran insisted Washington could no longer dictate terms.

Iran has blockaded the strategic waterway, a vital route for global oil and gas shipments, since the start of the US-Israeli offensive two months ago, sending shockwaves through the global economy.

BJP SWEEPS Gujarat local body elections

Saffron party wins all 15 municipal corporations, AAP Surat stronghold falls

AHMEDABAD

The BJP has orchestrated a near-total sweep of Gujarat's urban landscape, securing control over all 15 municipal corporations in a powerful display of electoral dominance, while Congress has suffered a sharp collapse and AAP managed only scattered, symbolic gains.

The results from the 2026 local body polls confirm that the "saffron wave" has not only held steady but intensified in key urban centres, leaving the Opposition with negligible presence in the state's major city councils. The verdict has turned into a massive saffron scoreboard, with the BJP storming cities, towns and villages in a display of organisational muscle that has left rivals struggling for space. The outcome is being seen as the first major political signal ahead of the 2027 Assembly polls.

The counting held on Tuesday covered one of Gujarat's biggest democratic exercises, including 15 municipal corporations, 84 municipalities, 34 district panchayats and 260 taluk panchayats. Of the 10,050 total seats, 732 had already been won unopposed, while the remaining seats produced a decisive verdict. The biggest headline came from urban Gujarat, where the BJP scripted a clean sweep by capturing all 15 municipal corporations.

I would like to applaud the large family of Gujarat BJP Karyakartas for their efforts at the grassroots. They have always worked among the people and addressed their problems. This is why our Party has time and again been the preferred choice of Gujarat.

—Narendra Modi, PM

KSEC denies seeking deferral of GBA polls

BENGALURU: The Karnataka State Election Commission (KSEC) has clarified that it has not sought any postponement or extension of time for conducting the GBA elections, amid speculation over a possible delay in the poll process. In a statement issued on Tuesday, it stated that it had never requested deferment of the polls and remained fully prepared to conduct it as scheduled. The clarification comes in the wake of proceedings before the Supreme Court, where an affidavit related to the GBA polls was recently submitted by the Commission. As per officials, the affidavit only explained the preparatory measures undertaken for the elections and did not contain any request seeking additional time.

LABOURER DIES AS HEATWAVE SCORCHES RAICHUR

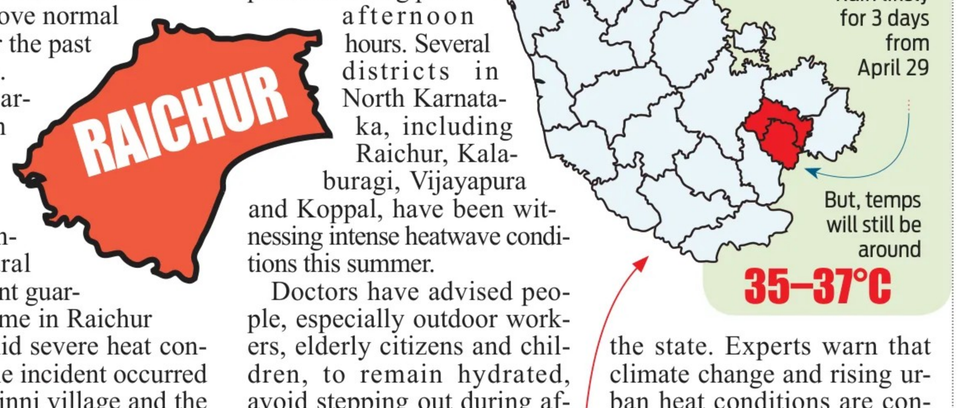
CH NEWS, RAICHUR

With scorching summer heat intensifying across Karnataka, concerns over heatwave-related illnesses and deaths are growing, particularly in North Karnataka districts where temperatures have been soaring above normal levels over the past few weeks.

A 45-year-old man collapsed and died while working under the rural employment guarantee scheme in Raichur district amid severe heat conditions. The incident occurred at Yapaladinni village and the deceased has been identified as Husenappa Madival.

According to local sources, Husenappa was engaged in outdoor work when he suddenly collapsed due to exhaustion in the intense heat. Co-workers and villagers rushed him to a nearby hospital, but he died on the way.

The incident comes amid increasing warnings from health officials over prolonged exposure to direct sunlight and high temperatures during peak afternoon hours. Several districts in North Karnataka, including Raichur, Kalaburagi, Vijayapura and Koppal, have been witnessing intense heatwave conditions this summer.


RAICHUR
What to expect
April 29–30:
Thunderstorms + rain + strong winds (up to 50 kmph)
BENGALURU
Rain likely for 3 days from April 29
But, temps will still be around
35–37°C

Doctors have advised people, especially outdoor workers, elderly citizens and children, to remain hydrated, avoid stepping out during afternoon hours and seek medical help immediately if symptoms such as dizziness, fatigue or dehydration occur.

The India Meteorological Department has already issued alerts for continued high temperatures in several parts of the state. Experts warn that climate change and rising urban heat conditions are contributing to longer and harsher summers in Karnataka.

Authorities are expected to step up awareness campaigns and precautionary measures, with concerns growing over the impact of extreme heat on vulnerable sections of society.

SCORCHING HEAT GRIPS NK

North Karnataka is witnessing severe heatwave conditions this April, with temperatures in several districts crossing dangerous levels. The Kalyana Karnataka region has emerged as one of the hottest zones in the state, with Kalaburagi recording temperatures between 44°C and 45°C in recent days. Koppal registered among the highest temperatures in the region, while Raichur and Vijayapura consistently remained above 42°C. Several locations across North Interior Karnataka also reported maximum temperatures exceeding 40°C.

IMD issues thunderstorm alert

BENGALURU: After days of intense heat, Karnataka is finally stepping into pre-monsoon mode. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an orange alert for Karnataka weather, warning of thunderstorms along with speedy winds across multiple regions of the state, including Bengaluru, for three days from April 29. The alert predicts the possibility of strong winds reaching speeds of 40-50 kmph, along with rainfall activity in several districts.

India set to receive 4th unit of S-400 missile systems early May

NEW DELHI

India is set to receive the fourth unit of the S-400 Triumf surface-to-air missile system from Russia in the first part of May, as per reports.

It is expected to further enhance the Indian Air Force's air defence mechanism.

Last month, New Delhi cleared the procurement of a new batch of five S-400 missile systems deployed by Russia, which will take the total number to 10.

It is reported that the fourth unit of the missile system has already been shipped and it is expected to reach India in the next few days.

In October 2018, India signed a $5 billion deal with Russia to procure five units of the missile systems and three of them have already been delivered.

Reports said the fifth unit of the missile will be delivered by November under an updated timeline for supplying the weapon system.

The S-400 missile systems played a crucial role during Operation Sindoor.

India had signed the deal for procurement of the S-400 missiles over seven years back notwithstanding a warning by the US that going ahead with the contract may invite US sanctions under the provisions of Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA).

The S-400 is known as Russia's most advanced long-range surface-to-air missile defence system.

DIPLOMATIC TRIUMPH

Dawood aide Dola deported to India

NEW DELHI

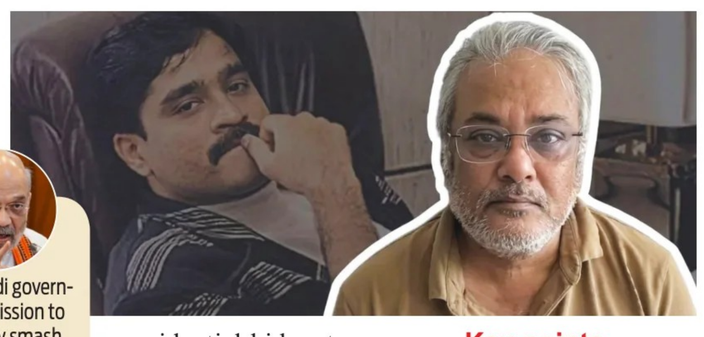
Salim Dola, an alleged key mephedrone producer and close associate of fugitive don Dawood Ibrahim, who was detained in Turkey, was brought to India on Tuesday morning.

The 59-year-old landed at Delhi Airport and was taken into custody by the Delhi Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).

A Delhi NCB officer said they will first interrogate Dola and then hand him over to various states, including Maharashtra and Gujarat, where cases are registered against him. Dola was detained by the Turkish Intelligence Agency and the Beylikduzu police on Saturday, following inputs from India's agencies.

Local police tracked him to a residential hideout in the city's Beylikduzu.

The CBI facilitated his extradition from Turkey. Interpol had issued a Red Corner Notice against Dola on the CBI's request, as the Mumbai police and the NCB wanted him in various cases. A resident of Dongri, the same Mumbai neighbourhood that shaped much of organised crime in India, Dola has been on the radar of narcotics agencies for nearly three decades.



Under Modi government's mission to ruthlessly smash drug cartels, our anti-narcotics agencies have extended their claws across borders through a robust network of global agencies. Now, no matter where they hide, no place is safe for drug kingpins. Dola was brought from Turkiye under 'Operation Global-Hunt'.

Amit Shah, HM

Key points

- He was arrested in Turkiye based on an Interpol Red Notice issued at India's plea.
- The extradition is part of 'Operation Global-Hunt', targeting international drug syndicates by the Centre.
- Dola is wanted in India for multiple narcotics trafficking cases and has ties to Dawood Ibrahim.
- Salim Dola's criminal history includes involvement in high-value seizures of heroin, charas, and other drugs.

Pahalgam-like attack in Mumbai: Man stabs 2 after asking religion

MUMBAI

A man has been arrested in Mumbai's Naya Nagar area for allegedly asking two security guards their religion before stabbing them. Police sources said the accused, Zaib Zuber Ansari (31), demanded the guards recite the 'kalma' or 'kalima', which are the foundational doctrines of Islam. The guards - Rajkumar Mishra and Subroto Sen - were at an under-construction building behind Wockhardt Hospital when Ansari reportedly confronted and attacked them in the early hours of Monday. Both suffered serious injuries and are under treatment.

Edu dept bars 'obscene songs' for school events

BENGALURU

The Department of School Education has restricted children from dancing to obscene songs during the school annual day and any other cultural events organised by the schools. In a circular, the Director of Primary Education has directed the schools across the state, including private ones, to take necessary measures and ensure that children will not dance to any obscene songs. "In case of any schools found allowing children to dance to the obscene of songs, then action will be initiated against the Head of the schools and also against the management of the school," reads the circular.

QUICK READ

MGNREGA worker dies suspected heatstroke during lake work

Raichur

A 50-year-old labourer, Husenappa, died due to suspected heatstroke while working under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in Yapaladinni village of Raichur taluk. The incident occurred around noon when he was engaged in tank development work at Rallakunta lake, where desilting and related activities had been underway for the past four days. Villagers said he suddenly collapsed at the work site amid intense summer heat conditions. Despite immediate attention from co-workers, he is believed to have died on the spot.

Farmers demand urgent repair of Ingaleshwar–Bisanal road

Vijayapur

Farmers in Basavana Bagewadi taluk of Vijayapur district have demanded immediate repair of the badly damaged Ingaleshwar–Bisanal road, saying it has become nearly unmotorable and is causing major hardship. Karnataka Farmers' Association leaders said the stretch, linking the birthplace of Basavanna, turns into a slushy path during rains, affecting villagers, students, and commuters. They accused authorities of negligence and confusion over departmental responsibility despite repeated complaints. Farmers warned that continued delay in restoration work would lead to a strong agitation in the coming days.

VHP leader urges action, investigation into alleged "love jihad" cases

Bidar

A Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) leader Basavaraj has called for strict action and detailed investigation into what he described as alleged cases of "love jihad." Speaking on behalf of VHP and Bajrang Dal, he claimed that some individuals are being misled and raised concerns about women's safety. He urged authorities to conduct thorough inquiries and, if necessary, involve agencies such as the National Investigation Agency (NIA) for deeper investigation. He appealed to the Central government, including the Prime Minister, Union Home Minister, and the President, to address the issue seriously and ensure legal action against those found guilty.

High command to decide leadership, says Parameshwara

Karnataka Home Minister Parameshwara says high command will decide leadership issues, dismisses CM change speculation.

KALABURAGI

Karnataka Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Tuesday said that any discussion regarding a change in Chief Ministership will be decided by the party high command at the appropriate time, and there is no internal confusion within the ruling party.Speaking to reporters in Kalaburagi, Parameshwara dismissed speculation about a leadership tussle, stating that such reports were being created by media circles. He clarified that there is no crisis or disagreement within the party leadership and that all members are focused on implementing government programmes.He said the party's central leadership would take the final decision whenever required. "The high command will answer everything. We are working together to serve the people as promised," he said, adding that there is no need for speculation.Responding to reports about his

visit to Delhi, he said he is not travelling there at present. He also rejected claims of a power struggle, calling them baseless.On the demand for a Dalit Chief Minister, Parameshwara said such opinions reflect public emotions and trust in leaders. He reiterated that the party high command will consider all viewpoints before taking any decision.

He also commented on internal discussions regarding Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar, saying all leaders will abide by the party's decision. "Every Congressman respects the high command's decision," he noted.

Parameshwara further said that the government is focused on implementing its budgetary commitments, including large-scale development programmes. He mentioned that schemes worth around ₹4 lakh crore are being executed.

He avoided direct comment on Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's statement about completing a full five-year term, stating that leadership matters are best left to the party's central leadership.

Samyukta Kisan Morcha demands full farm loan waiver

BIDAR

The district unit of the Samyukta Kisan Morcha has urged the Karnataka government to announce a complete loan waiver for farmers, citing increasing financial distress in the agricultural sector.Representatives of the organisation submitted a memorandum addressed to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah through Additional Deputy Commissioner Shivanand Karale on Tuesday. The farmers highlighted that many cultivators in Bidar district had invested in the Bidar Cooperative Sugar Factory near Halikhed (B), which has remained closed for the past two years without government approval.

Rahim Khan denies leadership confusion, highlights Janaspandana initiative

BIDAR

Karnataka Minister for Municipal Administration Rahim Khan on Tuesday dismissed allegations of leadership confusion within the state government, stating that administration is functioning smoothly with full coordination among officials.

He was speaking during the Janaspandana public grievance programme held at Maligon Circle in Bidar, where citizens from various parts of the district gathered to present their issues directly before senior officials and ministers.

Khan said the initiative is aimed at bridging the gap between the public and the administration by bringing government officials closer to citizens. He noted that district-level officers, including the Deputy Commissioner and heads of nearly 40 departments, were present at a single venue from morning to evening to receive grievances.

Rahim Khan denies leadership confusion, says Bidar Janaspandana programme shows smooth governance and coordinated administrative functioning in Karnataka government.

He added that people from rural areas often struggle to access government offices, and such programmes allow them to directly interact with officials without difficulty. According to him, this approach improves transparency and accountability in governance.

The minister highlighted that for the first time, senior officials and ministers have come together in one place to listen to public concerns in a structured manner. Issues raised during the programme included drinking water shortages, agricultural land disputes, electricity supply problems, and other local civic concerns.

Khan assured that all complaints would be reviewed carefully, compiled into a detailed report, and followed up with necessary action by the concerned departments.

He also said that a larger governance programme is being planned over the next three years, with important decisions expected at the high-command level.

Responding to questions about alleged internal confusion affecting governance, the minister strongly denied the claims, calling them baseless and politically motivated. He reiterated that the coordinated functioning of officials during the programme reflects the government's stable and efficient administration.

56,834 GOVT POSTS TO BE FILLED SOON

KALABURAGI

Karnataka Home Minister Dr. G. Parameshwara on Tuesday announced that a notification will be issued within a week to recruit 56,834 vacant posts across various government departments in the state.

Speaking after inaugurating the Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS) centre and handing over new vehicles under Kalyana Karnataka Regional Development Board (KKRDB) funding at the Police Commissioner's office in Kalaburagi, he said the delay in recruitment was due to issues related to internal reservation, which have now been resolved.

He stated that the Cabinet has already approved the large-scale recruitment process. Of the total vacancies, 8,000 posts will be filled for police constables and 600 for Police Sub-Inspectors (PSIs). He also mentioned that after earlier irregularities in the PSI recruitment process involving 545 posts, the process was paused and later restarted. So far, 402 PSIs have completed recruitment and training, bringing the total newly inducted sub-inspectors to 947.

The minister highlighted infrastructure development under KKRDB funding, including modern traffic management systems and new vehicles. He added that ₹50 cr was previously allocated, and a fresh proposal of ₹100 crore has been submitted. Additionally, 72 residential quarters have been constructed for police personnel, with plans to provide housing to 80% of staff by 2030.

Addressing the Bidar ATM robbery case, he said the accused are believed to have fled abroad but will be arrested soon. He also emphasized improvements in policing, including cybercrime control measures and appointment of a dedicated DGP, noting a decline in cybercrime cases from 24,000 in 2024 to about 14,000 in 2025.

He added that approval has been given for 12 new police stations, and several officials were present at the event.

Priyank Kharge clarifies ST certificate issuance for Talwar community, cites official data and verification process in Kalaburagi.

Kalaburagi ST certificate issue follows Govt guidelines

KALABURAGI

Kalyana Karnataka District In-charge Minister Priyank Kharge has clarified the ongoing confusion regarding the issuance of Scheduled Tribe (ST) caste certificates to members of the Talwar community, stating that the process is being carried out strictly as per government rules and guidelines.

He said the matter was discussed in detail in a meeting chaired by the Chief Minister during the Belagavi session, followed by three additional review meetings in Bengaluru. After four rounds of discussions, clear instructions were

issued to the concerned departments to ensure that eligible applicants receive ST certificates in accordance with the rules.Kharge also stated that consultations were held with community leaders and social activists before finalizing the government order, to ensure transparency and fairness in the decision-making process.

Providing official data, he said that from January 1, 2023 to date, a total of 14,282 individuals from Nayakda, Talwar, and related communities in Kalaburagi district have been issued ST caste certificates. In the same period, 1,624 people were issued certificates under the Talwar-Boya Category-1 classification.

KPRS condemns farmers' arrests in Ballari protest

YADGIR

The Karnataka Prantha Raitha Sangha (KPRS) has strongly condemned the arrest of hundreds of farmers, including women, during a protest held in Kudithini village of Ballari district, terming the action as unjustified and an attempt to suppress farmers' rights.In a press statement issued at Shahapur, KPRS General Secretary Yashwant T alleged that the detained farmers were protesting against the alleged irregular sale of land originally acquired by the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) in 2012 for the ArcelorMittal project, which was later reportedly transferred to JSW Steel.

Lightning damages temple pillar in Ukkali village

VIJAYAPUR

A lightning strike damaged the Amoghasiddeshwara Temple in Ukkali village of Basavana Bagewadi taluk in Vijayapura district during heavy rainfall. The strike hit the temple's malagamba (pillar), causing it to shatter and collapse, leading to significant structural damage.

Police must serve with compassion, says Parameshwara

KALABURAGI

Karnataka Home Minister Dr. G. Parameshwara on Tuesday called upon police personnel to uphold strong service values and work with compassion to deliver justice, stating that policing is a responsibility beyond earning a salary.

He was speaking after receiving the ceremonial salute at the passing-out parade of PSI trainees held at the Madhukar Shetty parade ground of the Police Training College at Naganahalli on the outskirts of Kalaburagi. The event marked the completion of training for the 13th batch of Civil PSI trainees, 12th batch of RSI/Special RSI, and 6th batch of KSISF PSI trainees.

Addressing the gathering, the minister said the long-pending issue of internal reservation among Scheduled Castes has been resolved, and the recruitment process for nearly 8,000 police personnel and officers will be resumed soon.Describing the khaki uniform as a symbol of honour and responsibility, he urged trainees to serve society with empathy. "Police service is not just a job for salary. It is about wiping the tears of the distressed and ensuring justice," he said, adding that the force must help bring marginalized communities, including SC/STs and minorities, into the mainstream.

He highlighted several reforms introduced in the police department, including the 'Mane Manege Police' initiative, under which officers visit households to build public trust. He said law and order in the state remains stable, with police successfully handling serious crimes.The minister also noted the use of modern technology such as drones, CCTV systems, and body cameras to improve efficiency. He said cybercrime cases have reduced significantly from 24,000 in 2024 to 14,000 in 2025 due to improved policing strategies.

YATNAL ATTACKS YEDIYURAPPA

Yatnal targets Yediyurappa over felicitation event

VIJAYAPURA

Expelled BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal on Tuesday launched a strong attack on former Chief Minister B. S. Yediyurappa, criticising the preparations for a proposed felicitation programme in Chitradurga.

Speaking to reporters in Vijayapura, Yatnal mocked the "Abhimanotsava" scheduled for May 9, which is being organised to honour Yediyurappa's long political career. He also took a dig at B. Y. Vijayendra, who recently performed the Bhoomi Puja for the event, questioning the choice of leaders involved in the ceremony.

Yatnal sarcastically remarked that the event appeared to be turning into a political message rather than a simple felicitation. He alleged that it is being used to project leadership within the BJP and influence community sentiments, particularly among the Lingayat community.He further accused Yediyurappa of pressuring the BJP central leadership to secure the state party president post for his son Vijayendra. According to Yatnal, there were internal demands that Vijayendra should either continue as state president or be projected as a Chief Ministerial candidate, failing which the party could face weakening in Karnataka.Highlighting his own political background, Yatnal said he built his career through grassroots work and independent efforts. He also reiterated his plan to form a new political party, claiming that several leaders are urging him not to go ahead with the move.He added that after the summer season, a large Hindu convention would be organised in either Davanagere or Chitradurga, where he is likely to formally announce his new political outfit.

The remarks have added further tension within Karnataka BJP circles, already witnessing internal differences over leadership and organisational roles.

SC/ST Commission promises strict action on grievances

VIJAYAPURA

Chairman of the Karnataka State Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Dr. L. Murthy, on Tuesday assured that strict measures will be taken to address the issues faced by SC and ST communities across Karnataka.He was presiding over a grievance redressal meeting held at the Zilla Panchayat hall in Vijayapura, where representatives of various SC/ST organisations presented their concerns before the Commission. The meeting focused on key issues affecting the community, including land disputes, atrocity cases, fake caste certificates, and delays in welfare benefits.

Dr. Murthy said the Commission is committed to listening to grievances seriously and ensuring timely justice. He directed officials to work in coordination with the Commission and take immediate steps to resolve pending cases. He also stressed the importance of reviewing delayed cases so that beneficiaries receive justice without further delay.

QUICK READ

Farmers can challenge rejected crop insurance claims

CH NEWS, KOPPAL
Farmers in Koppal can file objections against rejected crop insurance proposals under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana for 2024-25 monsoon, winter and summer seasons. Rejections occurred due to mismatch between crop survey data and registration details. In Koppal taluk, 1,630 spring, 754 winter and 8 summer applications were rejected. Affected farmers may submit objections with supporting documents by May 12 at the Farmer Contact Center or Assistant Director of Agriculture office. Crop details must match RTC records. Officials said valid cases will be reconsidered as per guidelines and farmers can contact offices for further assistance and clarification.

Gadag mandates shop registration under state law

CH NEWS, GADAG
All shops and commercial establishments under Gadag Betageri Municipal Corporation must register under the Karnataka Shops and Commercial Establishments Act 1961 and Rules 1963. Owners, including those with or without workers, should apply online through the state e-Labour portal with required documents and fees to obtain registration certificates. Those already registered must also ensure compliance through the system. Labour Inspector Umesh S Hullanna warned that failure to register or violations will attract legal action. Authorities urged all business owners and entrepreneurs in the city to complete the process promptly and follow rules to avoid penalties and ensure smooth operations.

Koppal to host Government Employees Day event

CH NEWS, KOPPAL
District Administration, Zilla Panchayat and Karnataka State Government Employees Association will celebrate State Government Employees Day and hold a district-level best service award ceremony on April 30 at 10:30 am in the District Administration Bhavan auditorium. Minister Thangadagi Shivraja Sangappa will inaugurate the event. Several leaders including MLAs, MPs and officials will attend, while MLA K Raghavendra Hitna will preside. Awards will honor dedicated government staff for their service. Senior district officials and employees are expected to participate, highlighting achievements and encouraging better public service.

DC orders surprise raids to stop drug abuse

SP Dipan reported 14 arrested in 8 supply cases with seized ganja ₹1,49,500 and 112 arrested in consumption cases

CH NEWS, KARWAR

K. Lakshmipriya instructed officials to conduct surprise inspections in homestays and resorts to prevent drug use and illegal supply in the district. She gave the direction while chairing the Encord Committee meeting held at the District Collector's office hall on Tuesday.

She expressed concern that many young people aged between 18 and 35 are falling into drug addiction, with several cases already registered in the district police records. She said drug abuse is spreading among college students and directed authorities to increase awareness programs on the harmful effects of drugs in educational institutions. She also instructed that all medical shops must strictly avoid selling medicines without a doctor's prescription card. The District Drug Controller was asked to install awareness posters in pharmacies and take strict action against shops that violate rules. She directed the police department to spread awareness about the "Drug Free Karnataka" mobile application, which provides information on drug-related complaints and enforcement activities. She also ordered all committee members to submit monthly reports on inspection progress.

Superintendent of Police Dipan M N informed that in 2026 so far, 14 people have been arrested in 8 drug supply cases, with ganja worth ₹1,49,500 seized. In addition, 112 people have been arrested in 97 cases of drug consumption.

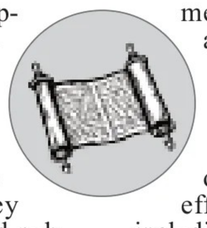
Officials from the police, health, education, port and fisheries departments attended the meeting. The Collector stressed coordinated efforts between departments to strengthen enforcement and protect youth from drug abuse. She said strict monitoring and regular checks are necessary to ensure a drug-free district and warned that negligence will not be tolerated in implementing these safety measures across Uttara Kannada region immediately and effectively for public welfare.

Gadag launches mission to digitize ancient manuscripts

CH NEWS, GADAG

Officials discussed survey methods, coordination, monitoring, and ethics for preserving Karnataka's cultural heritage using technology. Collector urged timely progress and inter-departmental cooperation.

C. N. Sridhar said a major initiative has been launched to preserve and digitize centuries old manuscripts under the central government's Jnana Bharatham Mission. He chaired a meeting at the Collector's office on Monday to review steps for protecting cultural heritage using modern technology. He said the project aims to safeguard handwritten texts documents and manuscripts by digitizing them and uploading details to a national mobile application. This will help create a central database and make valuable knowledge accessible to the public. He said the state plans to survey preserve translate and publish rare manuscripts to ensure they are available for future generations.



Assistant Director of Tourism Kotreshwar Vibhuti said a statewide survey has begun and committees have been formed at state and district levels to carry out the work effectively. The district committee led by the collector includes officials experts and representatives from institutions. They will identify manuscripts in libraries temples monasteries educational institutions and private collections.

They will also support documentation cataloging and awareness activities among local communities. Officials discussed survey methods coordination monitoring and ethical guidelines during the meeting. The initiative aims to protect Karnataka's rich cultural heritage and ensure its proper use through technology driven preservation efforts. Other officials including Gangappa Rajarama Pawar Srinivasamurthy Kulkarni and academic representatives attended the meeting and shared inputs on implementation.

The collector stressed timely progress and coordination among departments to successfully complete the project.

He said the mission will help preserve history language and traditional knowledge systems while making them accessible through digital platforms for researchers students and the general public across the country in coming years ahead ensuring cultural continuity and knowledge preservation effectively.

Channal said the commission cleared about 40,000 duplicate appeal cases last year, marking significant progress and achievement

RTI act strengthens democracy, says Commissioner Channal

CH NEWS, BELAGAVI

State Information Commissioner Prakash Narayan Channal of the Karnataka Information Commission's Belagavi Bench said that the Right to Information (RTI) Act is a strong pillar of democracy and a powerful tool for citizens.

Speaking at an official event, he said the RTI Act, which came into force on October 12, 2005, was introduced to make government information easily accessible to the public. He noted that Karnataka was the first state in the country to implement this law. Channal highlighted that the commission has made significant progress in handling cases. In the past year alone, about 40,000 duplicate appeal cases have been cleared, which is considered a major achievement.

He said that around 40 to 60 cases are being heard daily through both online and offline modes at the Belagavi Bench. Special attention is being given to applications from rural areas, especially those related to basic issues like drinking water, roads, electricity, sanitation, and health services.

The commissioner also stated that strict action is being taken against officials who fail to provide information. This includes disciplinary measures, fines, and compensation orders based on inquiry reports.

Due to the increasing number of applications, the commission has planned to dispose of around 6,000 to 7,000 cases every year. Efforts will also be made to handle cases district-wise for faster resolution.

Officials said the initiative will improve transparency and ensure timely justice for citizens.

PUC exam to be held under strict vigilance: Dr. Nagaraja

CH NEWS, HAVERI

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Nagaraja L has directed officials to conduct the Second PUC Examination-2 in a transparent and systematic manner across the district.

Chairing a preparatory meeting at the District Collector's office, he said the exams will be held from April 30 to May 13 at seven centres, with 6,230 students appearing. He stressed the need to maintain confidentiality and strictly follow all examination guidelines.

Officials, supervisors, and invigilators have been instructed to work in coordination and ensure there are no lapses in duty. He emphasized creating a safe and disciplined environment so that students can write exams without fear.

A three-member committee, including the Tahsildar, Field Education Officer, and Principal, has been formed in each taluk to handle question paper distribution. GPS tracking is mandatory for vehicles transporting question papers.

The Deputy Commissioner directed authorities to ensure basic facilities such as clean rooms, proper seating, drinking water, lighting, fans, and toilets at all centres.

CCTV cameras must be functional, and all key processes like opening and sealing of papers should be recorded.

Police and health staff will be deployed at centres for security and emergency care. Electronic devices like mobile phones and smart gadgets are strictly banned inside exam halls.

A 200-metre area around centres has been declared restricted, and nearby photocopy and cyber shops will remain closed during exams.

GADAG HANDLOOM INSTITUTE SHAPES FUTURE WITH MODERN LEARNING

CH NEWS, GADAG

The Karnataka Institute of Handloom Technology at Narasapura in Gadag-Betageri is emerging as a leading educational centre that blends traditional handloom art with modern textile technology, creating new opportunities for rural and urban youth.

Established in 1994, the institute offers a three-year diploma course in handloom and textile technology, focusing on both technical skills and creative craftsmanship. It functions under the Development Commissioner, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, following national-level syllabus and examination standards.

The institute is one of only 11 such specialised handloom technology institutions in India, with similar centres in cities like Salem, Varanasi, Jodhpur, Guwahati and Kannur. Among them, the Gadag institute has gained recognition for its infrastructure and quality training.

Spread across 8.3 acres, the campus is equipped with modern laboratories including dyeing, printing, testing, handloom, powerloom, Jacquard and Computer Aided Textile Designing (CATD) labs. Smart classrooms, e-library facilities and a well-stocked library support academic learning.

Student welfare has also been prioritised with hostel facilities for boys and government accommodation for girls. Solar-powered systems provide clean drinking water and hot water for bathing, improving living conditions on campus.

Admissions are open every year for SSLC, PUC science and ITI-qualified students, with age relaxations for SC/ST candidates. Lateral entry is also available for eligible candidates from vocational and technical backgrounds. Students receive a monthly stipend of ₹2,500 during their course.

Principal Sumalatha S said the institute aims to make students employable and self-reliant by combining traditional weaving skills with modern technology. She added that experienced instructors and advanced facilities help build strong career foundations for students.

Officials said the institute has already produced 23 trained candidates since 2008 who are now working in handloom and textile departments across various districts of Karnataka.

The institute continues to strengthen its role as a model training centre.

Minister orders action to solve water issues

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

District in-charge Minister Shivraj Thangadagi has directed officials to take urgent steps to prevent any shortage of drinking water across the district during summer.

He chaired a review meeting at the Collectorate office and assessed the current situation. Officials informed that the district has 153 gram panchayats and 722 villages, with water being supplied to 418 villages through various schemes. In about 30 villages facing shortages, water is being supplied through private borewells on contract.

Authorities said there are over 2,300 government and more than 5,500 private borewells in the district. In urban areas, water supply is currently stable and expected to remain sufficient till June.

The Minister instructed officials to regularly test water quality and ensure cleanliness of tanks, pipelines, and storage systems. He also stressed relocating pipelines near drains to avoid contamination.

To address public concerns, helplines have been set up at taluk and district levels. Officials reported that 192 complaints related to water supply and maintenance have already been received and resolved.

Tahsildars and Panchayat officials have been told to respond quickly to any water or fodder-related issues.

Regular review meetings will be held at village, taluk, and district levels to monitor the situation.

Nodal officers have been appointed for each assembly constituency to oversee implementation.

Officials confirmed that sufficient funds are available and there is no shortage of fodder at present, ensuring relief for both residents and farmers in the district.

Precautionary advisory issued to stay safe from lightning

CH NEWS, Karwar

Authorities have issued a public precautionary advisory urging people to take safety measures during thunderstorms and lightning, which are commonly seen during the pre-monsoon and monsoon seasons, especially in the afternoon and evening.

Officials said people should first check weather updates and follow alerts sent through the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) on mobile phones before stepping out. Outdoor activities such as farming, grazing cattle, fishing, boating, and unnecessary travel should be avoided during adverse weather.

People have been advised not to take shelter under trees, electric poles, or metal structures, as these attract lightning. Instead, safe buildings should be used for shelter. Staying away from water bodies like lakes and rivers is also strongly recommended.

In case of sudden lightning while outdoors, people should squat with feet together and cover their head and ears if no shelter is available.

Those in vehicles should remain inside with windows closed.

Officials warned against using mobile phones, umbrellas with metal rods, and other metal objects during thunderstorms. Contact with electrical appliances, wires, and plumbing systems should also be avoided as lightning can travel through them.

RELIGIOUS FAIR PREPARATIONS

Grand Huligamma Devi Jatra preparations in full swing

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

Preparations are in full swing for the grand annual Jatra Mahotsav of Sri Huligemma Devi Temple, with authorities assuring complete arrangements for lakhs of devotees expected to attend the festival.

Koppal MP K. Rajasekhara Hitnala said all necessary facilities are being put in place to ensure a smooth and comfortable experience for visitors. He was speaking at a press conference held at the office of the Sri Huligemma Devi Kshetra Development Authority.

The Jatra Mahotsav will be held from May 2 to May 14, with celebrations continuing for nearly a month. Devotees from across Karnataka, as well as neighboring states like Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, are expected to participate in large numbers.

Officials estimate that over 30 lakh devotees may visit the temple this year, surpassing last year's turnout of around 28 lakh.

Authorities have planned extensive arrangements including clean drinking water, temporary toilets, parking facilities, and free transport services for devotees. Special darshan systems and crowd management measures will also be implemented to avoid inconvenience.

A month-long Maha Dasoha programme will be organised from May 2, providing free meals and prasadam to all devotees.

Temporary medical camps, ambulances, and fire safety units will be deployed to handle emergencies. Additional police personnel and CCTV surveillance will be in place to ensure security.

Officials said efforts are being made to improve water supply, with a proposal submitted to provide 7 MLD of water during the festival period.

Several development works are also underway at the temple site, including construction of residential complexes, new temple structures, sanitation facilities, and improved drainage systems.

These projects aim to enhance infrastructure for future events and pilgrim convenience.

The MP appealed to devotees to participate in large numbers and contribute generously towards temple development and Maha Dasoha activities.

Officials and members of the development authority were present during the press meet and expressed confidence that this year's Jatra Mahotsav will be conducted in a well-organised and grand manner.

QUICK READ

World Malaria Day observed in Chitradurga

CH NEWS, Chitradurga
A public awareness program was held at Ballala Samudra Primary Health Centre in Hosadurga taluk on Tuesday to mark World Malaria Day. Medical Officer Dr Pooja explained malaria symptoms and urged people to work towards a disease-free society, encouraging early action to stop the disease. Disease Control Programme Supervisor Nagaraj shared detailed preventive measures to reduce the spread of malaria. Field Health Education Officer Lalithamma educated villagers on safety steps and hygiene practices. Health centre staff, ASHA workers and local residents took part in the program, spreading awareness about prevention and public health safety in the area.

Koppal imposes restrictions ahead of NEET exam

CH NEWS, Koppal
Strict prohibitory orders have been imposed around examination centres for the UG NEET 2026 exam scheduled on May 3 from 2 pm to 5 pm. District Magistrate Dr. Suresh B Itnal has declared a 200-meter restricted zone around 10 exam centres across Koppal and Kukunoor taluks under Section 163 of the Indian Civil Safety Code 2023. Shops like Xerox, STD, typing centres, and mobile use are banned in this area during exam time. Entry is allowed only for authorised staff and vigilance teams. Carrying weapons is prohibited. The order will not affect weddings, funerals or religious events, officials clarified in a statement.

Preparatory Meeting Set for Mallamma Jayanti Celebrations

Chitradurga
A preliminary meeting will be held on April 29 at 10.30 am at the District Collector's Office hall to plan the celebration of Shivasharan Mahasadhvi Hemareddy Mallamma Jayanti on May 10. Deputy Commissioner T Venkatesh will preside over the meeting. District level officers and leaders of different communities will participate and give suggestions and guidance for the Jayanti celebrations.
Assistant Director of Kannada and Culture Department Dr B M Gurunath said preparations will ensure smooth and successful event organization. The meeting will help finalize arrangements and ensure grand celebration of the Jayanti in Chitradurga city.

MLA orders steps to prevent rural water crisis

Officials urged inter-departmental coordination for water management, infrastructure maintenance, public cooperation, and responsible water usage

CH NEWS, BIDAR

Dr. Shailendra Beldale directed officials to take urgent steps to prevent drinking water shortage in rural areas of Bidar Dakshina constituency during the summer season. He chaired a meeting with officers of all departments under Chittaguppa taluk and stressed the need for immediate action and coordination. He instructed officials to ensure that no village faces water scarcity by taking precautionary measures in advance.

He said tanker supply should be arranged if required, borewells must be repaired quickly and new water sources should be identified without delay. He emphasized that water is essential for life and people should not suffer due to shortages during summer months. He also directed authorities to inspect all water sources and repair damaged pumps, motors and pipelines to maintain proper supply systems. Officials were told to work together across departments including gram panchayats and taluk administration to handle the situation effectively. He said only coordinated efforts can solve the issue and prevent hardship to the public. Along with water supply he also instructed officials to ensure basic infrastructure like roads is maintained properly in rural areas. He appealed to the public not to waste water and to use it carefully to reduce future shortages. He said community cooperation is equally important in managing water resources.

The meeting focused on preparedness and timely response to avoid crisis situations in villages. Officials assured that necessary steps will be taken immediately to implement the directions and provide uninterrupted drinking water supply across all affected areas in the constituency during peak summer conditions this year without fail ensuring relief to residents.

DC calls for 100% vaccination coverage

CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA

Since January, 26 measles and 1 rubella case reported. Officials noted 96% vaccination coverage, but gaps remain; DC ordered urgent improvement in Shidlaghatta, Manchenahalli

Deputy Commissioner G. Prabhu has instructed health department officials to achieve 100 percent vaccination coverage in the district in order to fully prevent measles and rubella cases.He issued the directions while reviewing the vaccination progress at a meeting held in the District Collector's office hall on Tuesday.Officials informed the meeting that since January this year, 26 measles cases and one rubella case have been reported in the district. Blood samples from 205 suspected cases were tested during this period, and 10 cases were identified in the Manchenahalli area.The Deputy Commissioner noted that vaccination coverage in Shidlaghatta and Manchenahalli urban areas was not adequate and stressed the need for immediate improvement.According to the RCH portal, the district has achieved about 96 percent vaccination coverage since April 2025. However, he directed officials to ensure that the remaining gap is closed and full coverage is achieved in the coming days. He also instructed health officers at primary health centres and urban health centres to verify all vaccines, including polio and Indradhanush vaccines, and ensure proper administration.He said vaccination should be given immediately after childbirth and must be clearly recorded in discharge summaries and mother and child cards.

Health officer warns against dangerous summer heat

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

The summer heat is rising day by day in Chitradurga district, making health officials alert the public about heat stroke. Area Health Education Officer B. Janaki spoke at an NCD Health Fair camp held in Indira Colony, Bharamsagar village, Chitradurga taluk on Tuesday. She said it is important for everyone, especially children, elderly people and pregnant women, to stay safe during hot weather. She explained warning signs such as high body temperature, fever, confusion, slurred speech, fainting, dizziness, dry skin, nausea, vomiting and fast breathing. She advised people to go to the nearest hospital immediately if these symptoms appear. She asked people to avoid going out during peak heat hours and drink water often even when not thirsty. Drinks like coconut water, buttermilk and lemon juice are helpful. People should wear loose, light colored cotton clothes and use hats, umbrellas and sunglasses while going out. If body temperature rises, using a wet cloth and taking breaks from sun exposure is important. She also warned against drinking too much cold water, coffee, tea and soft drinks. Eating oily and spicy food should be avoided and no one should leave home without eating. Children and pets must never be left inside parked vehicles. Community Health Officer Pratibha, Primary Health Safety Officer Lakshmi and ASHA worker Gangambhik also attended the programme. Officials stressed prevention and awareness for public safety during summer heat season.

Minister Chaluvarayaswamy mourns MLA brother's sudden death

MANDYA

Minister for Agriculture and Mandya district in-charge N. Chaluvarayaswamy expressed deep sorrow over the death of Malavalli MLA P.M. Narendraswamy's brother P.M. Parasivamurthy. He said Parasivamurthy was known for simplicity and decency and was active in social work. His death is an irreparable loss to the family and people of Malavalli. The minister prayed for peace to the departed soul and strength for the bereaved family. He also conveyed condolences to relatives, supporters and residents sharing their grief. Issuing a condolence message, he recalled that Parasivamurthy maintained close friendships with people across society and was always involved in community activities, making his presence felt.

District and taluk helplines activated for water complaints; citizens can contact 9480872005 or local helplines for assistance

Mandya issues summer water safety instructions

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Nandini K. R. has issued strict instructions to officials to take precautionary measures to ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply in rural areas of Mandya district during the summer season. She chaired a video conference meeting at the Zilla Panchayat Keshavan Hall on Monday and reviewed the preparedness of the Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department.

She said around 289 villages in the district are likely to face drinking water shortage this summer. As an immediate step, arrangements have already been made to supply water through private borewells in 13 villages, while officials have been directed to take preventive measures in the remaining areas.

She instructed officers to act quickly if borewell water levels reduce by deepening borewells, adding extra pipelines, providing electricity connections where needed, and repairing pumps and motors without delay. She also said all water sources, overhead tanks, pump sets and borewells in Gram Panchayat limits must be regularly inspected to avoid breakdowns.

She added that tanker water supply has been arranged wherever necessary as an alternative measure. Considering rising temperatures, she advised the public to avoid unnecessary outdoor activity in the afternoon, drink sufficient water and stay in shaded areas. She also directed Gram Panchayats to spread awareness about heat safety and water conservation.

District and taluk level helpline numbers have been activated for public complaints regarding water issues. Citizens can contact the district helpline 9480872005 or respective taluk helplines for immediate assistance.

She also instructed officials to hold weekly review meetings and ensure coordination between departments. She urged Panchayat Development Officers to encourage people to use water carefully and support conservation efforts to manage the summer demand effectively across the district.

Strong winds disrupt power supply in villages

CHIKMAGALURU

People in Malnad region of Chikkamagaluru are facing heavy rain damage as strong winds and hail continue for several days. Many electricity poles fell near Aldur cutting power supply to dozens of villages and leaving homes in darkness. Officials said repair work is slow because rain is still falling.

Farmers in Mudigere and nearby areas are worried as coffee and arecanut crops are getting damaged by continuous hailstorms. Many say their hard work is being wasted just before harvest. In some places trees fell on roads blocking traffic between Chikkamagaluru and Balehonnur. Local people helped remove the trees and restore movement. A lightning strike also caused panic in Janige village where a tree caught fire during rain. The incident shocked residents as they watched flames rise in wet weather. Heavy rainfall was reported in several places including Aldur Mudigere Koppa and NR Pura.

Authorities from MESCOM are working to restore power but face challenges due to bad weather.

The situation has created worry among farmers and residents who fear more damage if rain continues. People say early monsoon like conditions are affecting daily life transport and agriculture across the coffee belt. The region remains on alert as weather forecasts predict more rain in coming days.

Officials have advised people to stay safe avoid unnecessary travel and protect crops electricity lines and livestock during ongoing heavy rain conditions in Malnad region.

Party MLA backs DK Shivakumar for top post

RAMANAGARA

MLA Iqbal Hussain said that Karnataka leader DK Shivakumar will become Chief Minister on May 15. He said this is the final date and there will be no change. He earlier mentioned two or three possible dates but now confirmed May 15. Iqbal Hussain said people want DK Shivakumar to get an opportunity as Chief Minister.

He added that many MLAs believe his leadership can bring development to the state. It is also a shared wish among party workers, he said.

He expressed confidence that the change in leadership may happen by the given date. He also spoke about senior leaders Satish Jarkiholi and H C Mahadevappa visiting Delhi.

He said there is nothing wrong in meeting party high command leaders.

NITK Surathkal introduces PNG supply at Brahmagiri Hostel mess

SURATHKAL

National Institute of Technology Karnataka has initiated piped natural gas (PNG) supply at the Brahmagiri Hostel mess in collaboration with GAIL Gas Limited, marking a step towards cleaner campus infrastructure.

The facility was inaugurated on April 27 in the presence of NITK Director Prof. B. Ravi and other officials from the institute and GAIL Gas Limited, along with representatives of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB).

Officials said PNG has already been extended to residential quarters on campus, ensuring uninterrupted and cleaner fuel supply. The Brahmagiri Hostel mess is the first among campus establishments to shift from LPG to PNG.

The campus has around 20 commercial units, including messes and canteens, and plans are in place to extend PNG supply to all such facilities in a phased manner.

GYAN BHARATAM MISSION

Officials urged to coordinate manuscript survey drive

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

Dr. Suresh B. Itnal has directed officials to work in close coordination for the successful implementation of the national manuscript survey under the Gyan Bharatam Mission. He was speaking while chairing a district-level committee meeting held at the District Collector's office on Tuesday, organised by the Archaeology and Tourism departments.He said the manuscript survey will continue from March to May 2026 and stressed that all departments involved must work together to complete the task within the given time frame. He added that proper coordination is essential for accurate data collection and preservation of historical records.The Gyan Bharatam Mission aims to preserve and digitize ancient handwritten texts, manuscripts and historical documents across the country. He said the project will help protect India's cultural heritage and make it accessible through a single national digital platform. The initiative includes survey, conservation, digitisation, registration, critical editing and publication of manuscripts.He said information will be uploaded through a mobile application developed by the central government and stored in a national manuscript repository. He also instructed officials to create awareness at the district level to ensure wider participation.He directed departments to identify manuscripts in libraries, temples, monasteries, educational institutions and private collections. He said officials must support documentation, cataloguing,

field survey work and ensure regular progress reporting. He also stressed the need for both digital and manual surveys in areas lacking technological facilities.He added that the survey will help create a state-wise database and a GIS-based national manuscript map, enabling better protection of rare and endangered manuscripts.

PATEL HAILS SUMMER CAMP FOR CHILDREN DREAMS

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

Former Koppal Municipal Council president and minority community leader Amjad Patel said that building wings for the dreams of children in Koppal has begun. He spoke while inaugurating the summer camp organized by Ismail Aragandji and friends on the outskirts of the city. He said the camp is a place to build physical and mental health and sports skills in children. He praised the children's interest in cricket and the dedication of the coaches. He said practice under floodlights in nets creates excitement and helps physical growth.

This camp will help build a healthy society and increase interest in sports among children. He congratulated Ismail Aragandji and his team for their efforts. He said many parents hope future cricket stars like Rahul Dravid and Anil Kumble will come from Koppal. Many dignitaries, sports coaches, students, children and parents took part in the program. The organizers said the camp will continue during the summer to guide young players and keep them active and healthy.

QUICK READ

Hunsur students urged to study hard

Hunsur

At the closing ceremony of Hanugudu Hobli Government First Grade College, chief guest Dr Krupa Ganesh urged students to focus on studies and achieve success through hard work.

She said reading books is the most important activity and students must stay active. Principal Dr D Ravi stressed discipline and honesty for personal growth, recalling teachings of Gandhi and Ambedkar.

A charity fund was announced in the Kannada department. Meritorious students were honoured and prizes were given for academic, cultural and sports achievements. Faculty and students participated in the event, and Rashmi Urs delivered the vote of thanks program concluded.

NHRC Invites Entries for Short Film Competition

Mangaluru

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has invited entries for its 12th All India Short Film Competition on human rights.

The competition is open to citizens of all age groups. The first, second and third prizes carry cash awards of Rs 2 lakh, Rs 1.5 lakh and Rs 1 lakh respectively. Additionally, up to four films may receive Rs 50,000 each along with certificates.

Short films can be in Hindi or any Indian language, with English subtitles. The duration should be between 3 and 10 minutes. The last date for submission is June 30. Entries must be sent online via Google Drive.

Detailed guidelines and application forms are available on the NHRC website.

Corporation Urges Early Property Tax Payment

Mangaluru

The Mangaluru City Corporation has urged property owners to pay their dues for 2026–27 as per the revised provisions under the Karnataka Municipal Corporations Act, 2021.

MLA Bheemanna Naik demands urgent action on stray dogs

MLA directed PDOs for awareness and action, targeting stray dogs only.

SIDDAPUR

MLA Bheemanna Naik has called for urgent steps to control the growing stray dog problem in Siddapur. He said dog owners will be responsible if their pets bite or threaten people in public places. He spoke at a KDP meeting held at the taluk panchayat hall where public raised strong concerns. People said stray dogs are causing fear and daily problems in many parts of the taluk.

In response, the MLA asked PDOs to create awareness and take quick action to protect citizens. He also instructed officials to catch stray dogs while leaving out pet dogs from such drives. There was public dissatisfaction as people said the issue has continued for years without solution. Officials from agriculture health horticulture animal husbandry education and HESCOM departments gave

progress updates. EO M R Kulkarni and DDPI Devaraj Hitlakoppa were present at the meeting along with other officers. Officials assured that immediate measures will be taken to reduce dog related incidents in the region.

They said special drives will be conducted in villages and town areas to capture stray dogs safely. The MLA urged citizens to report stray dog threats immediately so that action can be taken quickly. Authorities emphasized coordination between local bodies and animal husbandry staff to manage the situation better. Residents hope these steps will bring relief and make streets safer for children and elderly people in Siddapur soon area.

₹1.2 crore road work launched for village connectivity

BIDAR

Dr. Shailendra Beldale said road infrastructure is the backbone of rural development and plays a key role in improving the lives of people. He was speaking after launching road asphalting work worth ₹1.20 crore to connect Yadalapur and Aiyasapura villages in Bidar South constituency.He said better roads help farmers transport their produce easily to markets, allow students to reach schools and colleges without difficulty, and ensure faster access to hospitals during emergencies. He added that development of road networks has been given top priority to improve rural connectivity.He said the newly launched road project is not just construction work but an important step towards the economic and social development of villages. He said it will strengthen connectivity between Yadalapur and Aiyasapura and also benefit surrounding villages.He added that his goal is overall development in infrastructure, drinking water, electricity, education and health sectors to improve the living standards of rural people. He instructed contractors to complete the work on time with high quality and warned that no negligence will be tolerated in public-funded projects. He also appealed to local residents to monitor the work and cooperate in maintaining quality standards, saying public participation is important for successful development.

He said village development and public service remain his main priorities and assured that more development projects will be taken up in the coming days for the benefit of the constituency.

Several local leaders and residents including Shivraj Patil, Gunavantrao Patil, Kushal Yaba, Basavaraja Kyasa, Umesh Yaba, Satish Yaba, and others were present during the launch ceremony.

Accused in burglary case arrested after 4 years

SIDDAPUR

The Siddapur police have arrested an accused who had been absconding for the past four years in a house burglary case registered in 2017. The accused, identified as Farooq alias Farooq Ullah (24), was traced and arrested at Thrasi in Udupi district while he was reportedly begging.

According to police, the case was registered at Siddapur Police Station under Crime No. 03/2017 for offences under Sections 457 and 380 of the Indian Penal Code. The accused, a resident of Hallurkeri in Shiralakoppa of Shivamogga district, had gone missing after the case was filed. After investigation, police submitted a charge sheet in court.

Since the accused failed to appear for court hearings, a warrant was issued against him. Police teams collected information from several districts including Shivamogga, Haveri and Mangaluru to trace him.

After continuous efforts, the Siddapur police succeeded in locating and arresting him at Thrasi in Udupi district. He was taken into custody and produced before the court, which remanded him to judicial custody till May 20, 2026.Police said the accused is also facing cases in other stations across Shivamogga and Uttara Kannada districts, indicating his involvement in multiple offences.

Siddapur police filed a case under Sections 457 and 380 IPC; accused absconded, warrant issued, and police traced him across Shivamogga, Haveri, and Mangaluru

The operation was carried out under the guidance of Uttara Kannada Superintendent of Police Deepan M N, Additional SP G Sirsi Sub-Division DySP Geetha Patil, and Police Inspector Sitaram J B. PSI Nagappa B and staff members Chethankumar Halageri, Bharathkumar K J, and Shashikant Naik also participated in the successful arrest operation.

Madiga leader D. Kumar said uniting left-hand and right-hand Dalit groups will end divisions and promote harmony

Dalit groups celebrate Karnataka internal reservation decision

HUNSUR

A celebratory gathering was held at the Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Community Hall in Hunsur after the Karnataka government's decision on internal reservation for Scheduled Castes, with Dalit leaders coming together to welcome the move and mark the occasion by offering tributes to Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and distributing sweets.

Speaking at the event, Ningraj Malladi, state organisation coordinator of Dasamsa groups, said that Dalit organisations had been demanding internal reservation for nearly 30 years. He said the Justice Nagamohan Das Commission was formed to study the issue, which collected opinions from different communities across the state and submitted its report to the government.

He noted that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah reviewed the report and implemented internal reservation after detailed discussions in the cabinet. He said the decision was taken to ensure social justice among different Scheduled Caste sub-groups.

Malladi added that earlier disagreements among communities had created tension, but the new system is expected to reduce conflicts and bring equality. He appreciated the government for addressing long-pending demands with what he called "careful and responsible consideration."

Madiga community leader D. Kumar said that earlier differences between left-hand and right-hand communities had created divisions, but the new decision would help unite Dalit groups.

Human Rights Commission Chief inspects facilities across karwar

KARWAR

Karnataka State Human Rights Commission Chairman T. Shyama Bhat along with member S.K. Vantigodi visited several public institutions in Karwar on Tuesday and conducted inspections. They first checked hostels run by Backward Classes and Social Welfare departments and interacted with students about facilities and safety. Later they visited KRIMS Hospital and reviewed patient services. The team then inspected the district jail and listened to grievances of prisoners. They also visited the district bus stand, observed cleanliness, and checked hygiene in toilets and quality of food sold in shops. Finally, they inspected rural and city police stations. Officials including Zilla Panchayat Deputy Secretary Allah Bhaksh, T.P. Executive Officer Veerana Gowda, Social Welfare Deputy Director Umesh, and Environment Officer Santhosh accompanied them.

The Commission said such inspections help ensure basic rights, improve public services, and strengthen accountability in government institutions across the district. They assured follow-up action on issues identified during the visit and directed officials to submit detailed reports soon immediately.

B T Kumaraswamy reviews NEET exam preparedness

CHITRADURGA

B. T. Kumaraswamy has instructed officials to ensure all necessary arrangements for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET-2026), which will be held on May 3 across the district. He chaired a preparatory meeting at the District Collector's office hall on Tuesday and reviewed exam preparedness.

He said examination centres must be equipped with proper desks, drinking water and toilet facilities so that students do not face any inconvenience. He also directed officials to take strict precautions to avoid power cuts during the exam period due to extreme summer conditions. All staff assigned to exam duty must attend mandatory training, and negligence will invite strict action.

He said students must strictly follow National Testing Agency rules and are not allowed to carry any electronic devices, paper materials, calculators, watches, or communication gadgets inside exam centres. He warned that possession of such items will be treated as use of unfair means and legal action will be taken.

He said observers have been appointed for five examination centres in the district to ensure transparency. A 200-metre prohibitory zone will be enforced around exam centres, and Xerox and computer shops in these areas will remain closed on exam day. He also instructed police deployment, health emergency teams, uninterrupted power supply, BSNL internet support, and postal arrangements for secure dispatch of answer sheets.NEET nodal officer Nagabhushan said 2,835 students will appear at five centres, including three in Chitradurga and two in Challakere. The exam will be held from 2 pm to 5 pm, with entry allowed until 1:30 pm.Officials said CCTV surveillance, biometric verification, metal detectors and full videography will ensure strict monitoring for fair conduct of the examination across the district.

Tumakuru ensures smooth NEET exam execution

TUMAKURU

Deputy Commissioner Shubha Kalyan has directed officials to take strict precautions to ensure that the NEET UG 2026 examination scheduled for May 3 is conducted in a fair, transparent and peaceful manner in Tumakuru district. She chaired a preparatory meeting regarding arrangements for the exam across 13 centres in Tumakuru district and reviewed security and logistics plans.

MLA performs groundbreaking for Rs 1.88 crore road project

MANGALURU

Mangaluru MLA Vedavyasa Kamath led the groundbreaking ceremony for the development of the road near the Bendur Treatment Plant in Ward 38, Bendurwell, under the Mangaluru City Corporation limits.

The project, estimated to cost Rs. 1.88 crore, is expected to significantly improve connectivity in the area. Speaking on the occasion, the MLA recalled that during the previous BJP government, over Rs. 100 crore had been sanctioned under the Mahatma Gandhi Nagar Development Project-1. However, after the Congress came to power, the works were stalled.He said persistent efforts have now helped in releasing the pending funds, and there would be no compromise on the development of his constituency. The event was attended by prominent local leaders including Jesel D'Souza, Ramesh Hegde, Praveen Niddelu, Naveen D'Souza, Praveen Shet Bendurwell, Dayanand Shetty, Naveen Shenoy, along with party workers and residents of the area.

Forest raid nets poaching suspect arrested Hunsur

HUNSUR

Forest officials in Hunsur taluk have arrested a man accused of illegal hunting inside Nagarahole National Park. The accused, Srinivasa alias Dasa, son of Manjegowda from Shindenahalli, was taken into custody after a raid. The incident took place on April 11 near Jargal Wood Lot in Veeranahosahalli area when hunters allegedly entered the forest to trap wild animals. One of his associates, Ramegowda alias Pitilu Rama, was earlier caught, while others escaped in the darkness. Acting on a tip-off, forest staff tracked Srinivasa in Honnenahalli and arrested him under the guidance of senior officers. During a search of his house, officials recovered five deer horns, one wild sheep horn, and a wild boar jawbone. Police said Srinivasa has been sent to judicial custody for further investigation. Officials are also searching for two absconding accused, Yashwanth alias Rahul and Satish, who are still on the run. Forest officers said the operation was carried.

NAME CHANGE

I, **VINOD VENUGOPAL** MYSORE, S/o. Gopinath Mysore Venugopal, Resident of No. 121, 42nd Cross, 8th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru -560070, Karnataka, have changed my name to **VINOD GOPINATH**, vide affidavit dated: 28.04.2026 before notary GANGARAJU .B.N, Bengaluru.

Document Lost

This is to inform the general public that my client Shri Fayaz S/o. Basha, R/o No.31, 1 Main, 7 Cross, Maruthinagar, Yelahanka, Bangalore, bring to the notice of the general public that the original Original Sale Deed dt.16.07.2007 executed by Venkatamma & K.S. Jagadish in favour of R. Kumar, registered with Sub-Registrar, Yelahanka, Bengaluru at Book No.1 and Doc. No.YAN-1-01162-2007- 08, pertaining to Site No.18, Kogilu Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, has been lost/misplaced.

Anybody having any interest/dispute/ claims over the said property or are holding the aforementioned document, shall return the same and contact the undersigned within 7 days from the date of issue of this Notice, failing which it will be deemed that above said property has no claims by virtue of said lost Original Sale Deed, in any manner.

M. Nagaraj, Advocate
#102, 1" floor, 'Legal Hut' Mariyannapalya, Behind St. John's School, Bengaluru-560 024 Ph: 9448087610, e-mail: nagaraj.advocate@gmail.com

IN THE COURT OF THE II ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
CMis.No.58/2026

Petitioners: Sri.Mahesh S/o Late Seenappa Aged about 42 years, R/at Sasalu Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk Bengaluru Rural District.

V/s

Respondent: Registrar of Birth and death The Tahshildar Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapura.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioners has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the mother of petitioner by name LATE GANGAMMA W/O LATE SEENAPPA who died on 25.12.2001 at Sasalu Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 29.05.2026. In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 27th day of April 2026.

By Order of the Court
Chief Ministeral Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura

Advocate: **T.G.Vijaykumar,** #35, 2nd Main, Priyadarshini Layout, palanajogihalli, Doddaballapura Town.

IN THE COURT OF THE II ADDL. CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
C.Mise.No. 139/2026

Between: 1. Smt. Narasamma, W/o late Anjinappa, Aged about 65 years, **2. Smt. Subbalakshmamma,** D/o late Anjinappa, Aged about 45 years, **3. Sri. Eshwaraiah,** S/o late Anjinappa, Aged about 35 years, **4. Sri. Mahesha,** S/o late Anjinappa, aged about 32 years, All are R/at Gundappanayakahalli Village, Arudi Post, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District-561204 ... **Petitioners**

And: The Tahsildar, The Registrar of Birth and Deaths, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District ...**Respondent**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a petition has been made to this court Under Section 13(3) and 14 of birth and death's act 1969, r/w rule 9 (3) of Karnataka Registration of births and deaths, 1999 for issuance of death certificate of **Anjinappa** S/o. late Goravanna is the husband of the 1st Petitioner and father of the Petitioners 2 to 4 who died on 25.01.1993 at Gundappanayakanahalli, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

Any person/who have objection for the same are hereby called to appear in this court, in person or by pleader duly instructed on **29/05/2026** at **11:00 A.M.** forenoon to show cause against the petitioners, failing which is matter will be heard and treated as no objections from anybody.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this 24-04-2026

By order of the court, Chief Ministerial officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC at Doddaballapuru

Advocate for Petitioner: **Shivakumar. G.S**

WILDLIFE HEAT RELIEF

Channamma Zoo battles heat with cool innovations

BELAGAVI

The Kittur Rani Channamma Zoo in Belagavi is taking special steps to protect animals from the extreme summer heat. At Kittur Rani Channamma Zoo, staff are using sprinklers, foggers, and ice cubes to keep animals cool.

More than 195 animals including tigers, lions, leopards, bears, deer and birds are being cared for during the hot weather. The forest department has started a summer care plan to prevent dehydration and heat

stress among them.

Animals are given glucose water, ORS, cold food and fresh fruits to stay healthy. Some animals enjoy mud baths while others rest in water pits filled with cool water. Ice cubes are added twice daily and meat is stored in freezers before feeding. Staff also spray water across enclosures to maintain a comfortable environment for animals. Officials say the zoo remains safe for visitors and animals despite rising temperatures.

Tourists are welcome to visit and enjoy the cool arrangements made inside the zoo.

The zoo also houses lions, tigers, leopards, crocodiles, blackbucks and many types of birds in well maintained enclosures. Authorities are planning further upgrades including better cooling systems, new exhibits and improved visitor facilities in coming months.

QUICK READ

Delhi cops detect forged permits, tampered vehicle

New Delhi

In a continued crackdown on traffic violations and document fraud, the Delhi Traffic Police have detected three serious offences involving forged no entry permits and a tampered vehicle in the last 48 hours. Officials said legal action has been initiated in all cases. According to police, the first incident was reported on April 27 at around 5:15 P.M. near Patiala House Court under Tilak Marg Circle. ASI Rajender Kumar, along with Head Constable Omprakash, intercepted a vehicle bearing registration number DL1LAL4940 for violating No Entry restrictions. During verification using an e-challan machine, the No Entry Permits displayed on the vehicle was found to be forged.

Assam Board declares Class 12 results: Science dominates

Guwahati

The Assam Higher Secondary Education Council on Tuesday declared the results of the Higher Secondary (HS) Final Examinations, with the state recording an overall pass percentage of 81.54 per cent across all streams. Among the four streams, Science emerged as the best-performing category with a pass percentage of 89.79 per cent. Commerce followed with 81.13 per cent, while Arts registered 79.54 per cent. The Vocational stream recorded a pass percentage of 74.20 per cent. Officials said a total of 3,22,723 candidates had appeared for the examinations held across Assam this year.

TN plans floating solar projects in reservoirs to boost clean energy

It has identified 7 locations for the pilot phase, selecting prominent reservoirs such as Mettur dam, Bhavanisagar dam, Vaigai dam, Red Hills reservoir, and Sathanur dam, along with a TNGECL-owned site at Avalanche lake

CHENNAI

In a major push toward renewable energy, Tamil Nadu Green Energy Corporation Limited (TNGECL) has unveiled plans to develop floating solar photovoltaic projects across key reservoirs in Tamil Nadu.The initiative aims to overcome land constraints for traditional solar parks while accelerating the state's transition to sustainable energy sources.The corporation has identified seven locations for the pilot phase, selecting prominent reservoirs such as Mettur Dam, Bhavanisagar Dam, Vaigai Dam, Red Hills Reservoir, and Sathanur Dam, along with a TNGECL-owned site at Avalanche Lake. These sites were chosen based on their water availability, size, and feasibility for hosting floating solar infrastructure.

Officials confirmed that TNGECL has initiated discussions with the Water Resources Department to secure necessary approvals for utilizing these waterbodies. At the same time, a private firm has been engaged to conduct feasibility studies focusing on technical viability, environmental impact, and integration of advanced systems such as battery energy storage. The project announcement is expected after the withdrawal of

the election-related Model Code of Conduct.According to TNGECL estimates, Tamil Nadu holds an untapped floating solar potential of nearly 3,000 MW across 57 reservoirs. The initial pilot phase is expected to generate around 100 MW, serving as a benchmark for scaling up similar projects across the state. The feasibility assessment will also examine factors like reservoir depth, cost structures, and site suitability to ensure efficient implementation. While floating solar projects typically require about 20 percent higher investment compared to ground-mounted systems, they offer long-term economic and environmental benefits. The estimated cost ranges between ₹5 crore and ₹6 crore per MW, with each unit requiring approximately 3.5 acres of water surface due to additional floating infrastructure.Despite the higher upfront expenditure, officials believe the initiative could significantly reduce reliance on coal-based power generation. Over the next five years, the state could potentially save between ₹10,000 crore and ₹15,000 crore, reinforcing its position as a leader in clean energy adoption and sustainable infrastructure development.

IIT-K student dies by suicide; second campus death in 10 days

KOLKATA

Another student allegedly died by suicide at the IIT Kharagpur campus in West Bengal's West Midnapore district, the second such incident within a span of ten days. The body of the 22-year-old engineering student was recovered from the Madan Mohan Malviya Hall on Tuesday morning. Prima facie, it appeared to be a case of suicide, said officials. According to the police, the deceased student's name is Soham Haldar, a resident of the Shalbagan area of Barasat in the North 24 Parganas district. He was pursuing MTech in Electronics and Electrical Communication Engineering at IIT Kharagpur, and lived in Madan Mohan Malviya Hall. The security guards were informed when the hall door had not opened since morning.

Delhi ministers slam AAP chief's 'Satyagraha' in liquor case

NEW DELHI

Delhi ministers hit out at former Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convener Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday for allegedly showing a lack of trust in the judiciary and expressing fears of bias against a High Court judge in connection with the Delhi liquor policy corruption case. The sharp reactions came after Kejriwal announced a 'Satyagraha' invoking Mahatma Gandhi's tradition of non-violent protest against what he described as a biased judicial process in the case. Delhi Minister Kapil Mishra launched a scathing critique, invoking Mahatma Gandhi to target the AAP chief. He said, If Gandhi ji were alive today, he would be chasing Kejriwal with a stick.

India eyes manufacturing boost to achieve $30 trillion economy

NEW DELHI

India is accelerating its push to become a $30–35 trillion economy by 2047, with manufacturing identified as a key growth driver.According to an official fact-sheet, the sector's contribution to GDP is projected to rise to at least 25 percent from the current 16–17%, reflecting a strategic shift toward large-scale industrial expansion and infrastructure-led development. As part of this transformation, the government is focusing on developing integrated manufacturing hubs designed to enhance efficiency, reduce costs, and support long-term industrial growth. These hubs combine physical infrastructure, regulatory support, and advanced connectivity, creating ecosystems that can sustain large-scale production and strengthen India's role in global supply chains. The approach marks a transition from fragmented industrial development to a more coordinated and system-driven model.This shift is closely linked to India's evolving infrastructure strategy, which now emphasizes system-level planning instead of isolated project execution. By addressing bottlenecks and improving logistics efficiency, this model ensures smoother operations for industries and timely completion of projects. The government's capital expenditure has seen a significant increase, rising from Rs 2 lakh crore in the financial year 2014–15 to Rs 12.2 lakh crore in 2026–27.

The government focuses on developing integrated manufacturing hubs designed to enhance efficiency, reduce costs, and support long-term industrial growth

Dhami bays for greater representation of women in governance

DEHRADUN

Pushkar Singh Dhami launched a strong critique of the Opposition during a special Assembly session focused on women's empowerment, while advocating for greater representation of women in governance.

Speaking at the session themed Nari Samman, Loktantra mein Adhikar, the Chief Minister underlined the importance of the Women's Reservation (Amendment) Bill and praised the contribution of women in shaping society and the state.

Addressing the Assembly in Uttarakhand, Dhami expressed gratitude to participants and paid tribute to those who played a role in the formation of the state. He also acknowledged the vital contributions of women in strengthening Uttarakhand's social and cultural foundation. Emphasising the significance of the proposed legislation, he urged members across party lines to support the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, describing it as a crucial step toward ensuring equal participation of women in democratic institutions.

Drawing from India's rich cultural traditions, Dhami highlighted how women are revered in the country's spiritual ethos. Referring to revered deities such as Maa Durga, Maa Lakshmi, and Maa Saraswati, he said that respect for women is deeply embedded in the nation's cultural consciousness. He argued that this cultural reverence must translate into tangible empowerment through policy and representation.The Chief Minister also cited several prominent women who have left a lasting impact on India's history and progress. He referred to Rani Lakshmi Bai as a symbol of courage, Savitribai Phule as a pioneer of education and social reform, and Kalpana Chawla as an inspiration in the field of science and exploration. According to him, these figures exemplify the leadership and resilience that women bring to every sphere of life.Focusing on Uttarakhand's own history, Dhami highlighted the contributions of regional icons such as Tilu Rauteli, Jiya Rani, Rani Karnavati, and Gaura Devi. He noted that these women demonstrated exceptional bravery and leadership, from resisting invasions to protecting the environment.

Ramadoss blames DMK govt for rise in illicit liquor trade

CHENNAI

Anbumani Ramadoss criticised the ruling M.K. Stalin-led DMK government, alleging that its inaction has led to a surge in illicit liquor sales across Tamil Nadu, forcing local communities to take matters into their own hands.

In a statement on Tuesday, the PMK leader referred to a recent incident in Podur village near Bennenagaram in Dharmapuri district, where a group of women allegedly ransacked four illegal liquor outlets operating in the area. The main accused in the illicit trade, identified as Govindan, reportedly escaped during the incident.While asserting that taking the law into one's own hands is not an acceptable solution, Ramadoss said the prevailing situation was a direct consequence of administrative failure.He alleged that the DMK government, which has been in power for the past five years, has created an environment where villagers felt compelled to act due to the unchecked proliferation of illegal liquor shops.

According to him, the four outlets in Podur were not newly established but had been functioning for several years. Despite repeated protests by local residents demanding their closure, no effective action was taken by the authorities.He further claimed that similar illegal roadside liquor outlets operate round the clock across the Dharmapuri district.Ramadoss also pointed out that the PMK had organised multiple protests seeking the removal of such outlets, and that Dharmapuri MLA S.P. Venkateshwaran had raised the issue in the Assembly. However, he alleged that the state government failed to act, and instead indulged in petty politics by mobilising certain groups to demand the opening of government-run liquor outlets in other villages.Highlighting the scale of the issue, Ramadoss claimed that while 4,787 TASMAC shops function legally across Tamil Nadu, more than 20,000 illegal liquor outlets are operating in parallel.

Justice Sharma recuses from Karti Chidambaram plea

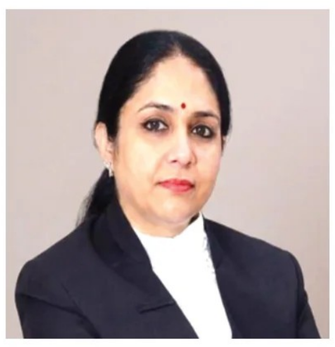
NEW DELHI

Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma of the Delhi High Court on Tuesday recused herself from hearing a plea filed by Congress MP Karti P. Chidambaram seeking quashing of a CBI corruption case linked to alleged bribery involving Diageo Scotland.

When the matter came up, Justice Sharma declined to hear the case, which will now be placed before another Bench, subject to the orders of the Chief Justice, the master of the roster.

Chidambaram has sought the quashing of the FIR registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on January 1, 2025, accusing him of influencing public servants to secure relief for Diageo Scotland over a ban on duty-free sale of its whisky.

In his plea, the Congress MP has contended that he was never called during the preliminary enquiry



and denied an opportunity to present his stand before the registration of the FIR.

He has also argued that there was an unexplained delay of nearly two decades, as the allegations pertain to the period between 2004 and 2010, while the FIR was lodged only in 2025. Chidambaram has further submitted that there is no allegation that he either demanded or accepted any bribe or illegal gratification, and therefore, offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act are not made out against him.

This is not the first time Justice Sharma has recused from a matter involving Chidambaram. Earlier, she had recused herself from hearing his plea challenging a trial court order framing charges in the alleged Chinese visa scam case.In that matter, Chidambaram has challenged the December 23, 2025, order of a special CBI court, which framed charges against him for criminal conspiracy and bribing a public servant over alleged irregularities in the issuance of visas to Chinese nationals in 2011. According to the CBI, around 250 Chinese workers were allegedly granted project visas for a Punjab-based power project in violation of Ministry of Home Affairs norms.Justice Sharma has also recently recused herself from hearing former AAP MLA Naresh Balyan's bail plea in a case under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA).

After Kejriwal, Sisodia on 'Satyagraha' in Delhi liquor case

NEW DELHI

AAP leader and former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has joined his party's national convener, ex-CM Arvind Kejriwal, in escalating their legal and political fight in the alleged Delhi liquor policy case by invoking the Gandhian principle of 'Satyagraha' while expressing a loss of confidence in the court proceedings.

After Kejriwal, Sisodia has also written a letter to the Delhi High Court judge expressing his reservations.

Taking to X, Sisodia shared the letter and posted, With the utmost respect and regard, I have written a letter to the Honorable Justice Swarnkanta Sharma of the Delhi High Court, requesting that, under the present circumstances, my conscience does not permit me to participate further in the proceedings of this case before her.

For me, this is not a question of any particular individual, but rather of the trust upon which the justice system is built – that justice must not only be fair, but must also appear to be fair to every citizen.

I also wish to make it clear that my faith in the judiciary and the Constitution remains completely unshaken. But when serious doubts linger in the mind, mere formal participation is not right for me. Therefore, I am left with no path but Satyagraha… he added.

Sisodia wrote, Yesterday, on 27 April 2026, Mr. Arvind Kejriwal addressed a letter to Your Ladyship setting out the reasons why, in his conscience, he was unable to participate in further proceedings in the present matter.

I have carefully considered the substance of that letter. Having done so, I find myself in respectful agreement with the stand taken by him, which is based on Mahatma Gandhi's teachings on Satyagraha.

I wish to state that two aspects of this case trouble me a lot. The first is the issue arising from Your Ladyship's repeated public attendance of the Akhil Bharatiya Adhivakta Parishad, a lawyers' organisation publicly understood to belong to the RSS.

The second is the issue arising from the professional engagement of Your Ladyship's children on multiple Union Government panels, and the resulting appearance of closeness to the very law officers who now appear against me on the other side, he added.

THE BIG DAY IS HERE

Kerala polls: UDF confident, Left cautious as verdict nears

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

With just six days to go before Kerala election results are out, the political temperature is rising across camps, even as public posturing and backroom calculations reveal sharply contrasting moods ahead of counting day.

Polling for the 140-member Assembly concluded on April 9, setting the stage for a decisive contest between the ruling Left Democratic Front led by Pinarayi Vijayan and the Congress-headed United Democratic Front (UDF) under Leader of Opposition V. D. Satheesan.

The BJP-led NDA, which failed to open its account in 2021 after losing its lone seat, is now banking on a fractured mandate to emerge as a potential kingmaker.

Pre-poll surveys have thrown up mixed projections, offering no clear trend. Yet, in the days following polling, the narrative battle has intensified.The UDF camp appears visibly upbeat, with leaders and supporters increasingly confident of a return to power. In contrast, the Vijayan camp has adopted a studied silence, a strategy that has only added to speculation.Interestingly, social media has become a parallel arena of political forecasting. Pro-Left handles are projecting a historic third consecutive term for Vijayan, a feat never achieved in Kerala's electoral history.

On the other hand, UDF leaning voices are claiming a comfortable victory, placing the alliance well above the halfway mark of 71, with some even predicting a tally crossing 100 seats.Adding to the mix, noted writer and former IAS officer N.S. Madhavan has offered a more measured forecast, suggesting the Left could retain power with around 75 seats, leaving the UDF at 65 and the NDA without representation.

What has particularly energised the UDF ecosystem, however, is the intense jockeying within its ranks over the chief ministerial post.

QUICK READ

Maharashtra woman assaulted by friend's family

Dombivli

A deeply shameful and shocking incident has come to light in Dombivli, Maharashtra, where an orphaned young woman was first brutally beaten by her friend's family members and was subsequently victimised by the very youth she had sought help from. According to the police, the victim works at a private establishment in Dombivli and has no immediate family support. It is alleged that her friend's family members assaulted her over a purported false accusation, with the friend's father also reportedly involved in the attack. After sustaining severe injuries, the young woman intended to file a police complaint but had no one to accompany her.

Tejashwi slams Centre after killing of Bihar youth in Delhi

The incident reflects growing insecurity and discrimination faced by migrant workers from Bihar in the national capital

PATNA

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav has strongly criticised the BJP-led central government following the killing of a young man from Bihar in New Delhi.

The Rashtriya Janata Dal leader alleged that the incident reflects growing insecurity and discrimination faced by migrant workers from Bihar in the national capital.

The controversy erupted after a 23-year-old man, identified as Pandav Kumar from Bihar's Khagaria district, was reportedly shot dead, while his friend Krishna sustained serious injuries in the same incident. Raising concerns over the safety of migrants, Yadav claimed that individuals from Bihar are increasingly becoming targets, alleging that their identity itself has turned into a reason for violence.

In a strongly worded post on the social media platform X, Yadav questioned the accountability of authorities responsible for maintaining law and order in the capital. He pointed out that multiple layers of governance in Delhi, including administrative and political leadership, are under the Bharatiya Janata Party, thereby holding the ruling establishment responsible for the incident.

Yadav further alleged that economic challenges in Bihar have forced many residents to migrate to other states in search of livelihood opportunities. However, he claimed that these migrant workers often face discrimination, harassment, and even violence in host states. According to him, the lack of adequate protection and respect for migrant communities highlights systemic issues that need urgent attention.

The RJD leader also raised questions regarding the conduct of law enforcement agencies, alleging that the victim did not receive fair treatment. He demanded strict action against those responsible and called for accountability within the policing system.

The incident has once again brought the issue of migrant safety and inter-state social tensions into focus. Political reactions are expected to intensify in the coming days as debates over governance, law enforcement, and the treatment of migrant communities continue to gain traction.

Women workforce participation rises sharply: Mandaviya

NEW DELHI

Minister of Labour and Employment Mansukh Mandaviya on Tuesday highlighted a significant rise in women's participation in India's workforce, stating that the female labour force participation rate has increased from 23.3% in 2017–18 to 40 percent in 2025. He described the trend as a clear indicator of growing empowerment and expanding opportunities for women across the country.

Speaking at the SwigStree: Celebrating Women on the Move event organised by Swiggy, Mandaviya emphasised that women's equal participation in the workforce is not only a matter of social justice but also a key driver of economic growth. He noted that empowering women remains central to the vision of building a developed India, often referred to as a Viksit Bharat.

The minister attributed the improvement in employment indicators to policy measures undertaken under the leadership of Narendra Modi. He pointed out that the Female Worker Population Ratio has risen from 22 percent to nearly 39 percent during the same period, while the Female Unemployment Rate has declined from 5.6 percent to 3.1 percent. These figures, he said, indicate that more women are not only seeking employment but are also successfully finding jobs.

Mandaviya also highlighted the expansion of social security coverage in India, which has grown nearly threefold over the past decade—from 19 percent in 2015 to over 64.3 percent in 2025. He said this progress reflects sustained reforms in labour laws, increased digital inclusion, and targeted welfare initiatives aimed at supporting workers across sectors.

A key focus of his address was the implementation of the four Labour Codes, which came into effect last November. He described these reforms as transformative, particularly the Code on Social Security, which for the first time formally recognises gig and platform workers. This recognition is especially significant for women engaged in flexible or app-based work, as it provides them with legal identity and access to social protection. The minister further noted that the Labour Codes enshrine the principle of equal pay for equal work, marking a major step toward eliminating gender-based wage disparities.

ED summons Kolkata DCP in Sona Papu syndicate case

KOLKATA

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has again summoned Kolkata Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Shantanu Sinha Biswas for questioning in the Sona Papu-linked syndicate case, a day before the second and final phase of voting in the state.

The DCP has been asked to appear at the CGO Complex on Tuesday. According to ED officials, he has been summoned as part of its investigation into a money laundering case against an alleged criminal-linked syndicate run by Sona Pappu alias Biswajit Poddar. Sona Pappu, a resident of Ballygunge in South Kolkata, faces various charges, including land grabbing and extortion. There is also a case against him under the Arms Act. The ED started the investigation in the wake of several such allegations.

The Central Investigation Agency officials have already arrested businessman Joy Kamdar in that case. Based on the information in this case, the ED raided Shantanu Biswas's house on Fern Road this month. He has not been seen in public since the search operation started.

The day after the search, the ED summoned Shantanu Biswas and his two sons, Sayantan and Manish, to the CGO complex in the Sona Pappu case. But none of them went to the ED office that day.

Last week, the ED summoned Shantanu Biswas, who is also a former Officer-in-Charge of Kalighat police station in Bhabanipur, for the investigation into the sand smuggling case.

However, he did not appear before the ED officers. Instead, his lawyer went to the ED office. According to sources, Shantanu sought time from the central investigation agency due to his busy schedule.

Infra push: PM Modi launches ₹4K cr projects in Sikkim

GANGTOK

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for multiple development projects worth around ₹4,000 crore in Sikkim, highlighting the strategic importance of the Northeast region.

Addressing a public gathering, he described the region as India's Ashtalakshmi and emphasised the government's accelerated development approach.

Speaking at Paljor Stadium, the Prime Minister said the Centre has moved beyond its earlier Act East policy to adopt an Act Fast strategy for the Northeast. He stated that projects spanning healthcare, infrastructure, and education sectors have been initiated to boost growth and improve quality of life in the region.

Highlighting the natural wealth of Sikkim, Modi noted the state's rich biodiversity and scenic beauty. He pointed out that the region is home to over 500 species of birds and around 700 species of butterflies, along with extensive forest cover, making it a major attraction for tourists. According to him, enhanced connectivity will play a crucial role in unlocking the state's full tourism potential.

The Prime Minister underscored the importance of infrastructure development, particularly in transport. He said the Sevok-Rangpo railway line is progressing rapidly and will bring rail connectivity to Sikkim for the first time. Additionally, a proposed expressway connecting Bagdogra Airport to Gangtok is expected to significantly cut travel time and boost tourist inflow.

Modi also took aim at previous Indian National Congress governments, alleging that they had neglected the development needs of Sikkim and the broader Northeast. He asserted that development activities have gained momentum since the Bharatiya Janata Party came to power at the Centre.

To further strengthen the local economy, the Prime Minister announced the development of 1,000 homestays aimed at promoting tourism and generating employment opportunities. He also praised the youth of Sikkim for their achievements in sports and reiterated the government's commitment to nurturing talent through initiatives like the Khelo India programme.

In the healthcare sector, several new programmes were launched as part of the development package. Modi claimed that healthcare infrastructure in the state had remained underdeveloped in the past but is now receiving focused attention. He concluded by reiterating the Centre's commitment to inclusive and rapid development in Sikkim and the entire Northeast region.

V-P offers prayers at Tirumala temple

TIRUPATI

Vice President CP Radhakrishnan on Tuesday visited the revered Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple and offered prayers, seeking peace, prosperity, and well-being for the nation. The visit marked his second pilgrimage to the temple since assuming office.

Upon his arrival at Tirumala, the Vice President was warmly received by Anam Ramanarayana Reddy, along with officials of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams, including Chairman B.R. Naidu and Executive Officer Muddada Ravichandra.

Temple priests extended a traditional ceremonial welcome, offering the customary rituals that signify respect and devotion.

Radhakrishnan began his visit by paying obeisance at the Dwajasthambham, the temple flagpole, before proceeding for darshan of Lord Venkateswara. He also visited several associated shrines within the temple, including those dedicated to Goddess Vakulamata, Lord Vimana Venkateswara, the Bhashyakara Sannidhi, and Lord Yoga Narasimha Swamy, reflecting the spiritual significance of the complex.

At the Ranganayakula Mandapam, Vedic scholars recited sacred hymns and offered blessings through Vedic rituals. The temple authorities presented the Vice President with a portrait of the presiding deity along with sacred offerings, including holy water and consecrated food. He later visited the shrine of Bedi Anjaneya Swamy Temple, located opposite the main temple, and offered prayers there as well. Senior officials, including TTD Additional Executive Officer Venkaiah Chowdary and Board Member Bhanu Prakash Reddy, were present to oversee arrangements and facilitate the visit.

After Kejriwal, Sisodia on 'Satyagraha' in Delhi liquor case

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Taking to X, Sisodia shared the letter and posted, With the utmost respect and regard, I have written a letter to the Honorable Justice Swarnkanta Sharma of the Delhi High Court, requesting that, under the present circumstances, my conscience does not permit me to participate further in the proceedings of this case before her. For me, this is not a question of any particular individual, but rather of the trust upon which the justice system is built – that justice must not only be fair, but must also appear to be fair to every citizen. I also wish to make it clear that my faith in the judiciary and the Constitution remains completely unshaken. But when serious doubts linger in the mind, mere formal participation is not right for me. Therefore, I am left with no path but Satyagraha… he added.

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I have carefully considered the substance of that letter.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
(www.kpwd.gov.in)
Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Special Division, Shivamogga
Ph: 08182-222943 **Email ID:** spdivision@gmail.com

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two-cover system) (Through KPP portal) - 2nd Call

IFT No. 09/2026-27 **Date: 24.04.2026**

The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Shimoga Special Division, invites tenders as per K.T.P.P act 2000, in standard Bid document K/W-4 (two cover system) Contractors has registered in PWD Department Class-1 can apply under head of account **4059-80-051-0-60-132-CMIPD Indent No. 33342 & 33363 for Maximum Amount put to tender is. Rs. 730.89 Lakhs, and Minimum amount put to tender is 438.14 Lakhs, Maximum EMD amount is Rs.10.965 lakhs and Minimum EMD amount is Rs. 6.44 Lakhs. Time allowed for completion of work is 11 Months including Monsoon**. The tenderers may submit tenders through KPPP- portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz., **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**). The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 4 of the Section-2 (Instructions to tenderers) of document, to qualify for award of the contract. Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPPP-Portal **from 24.04.2026 to 09.05.2026** Last date for Receipt of Tender is on **09.05.2026 at 17.00 PM.** The Technical bid will be opened on **10.05.2026 at 05.30 PM** onwards and Financial bid will be opened after **11.05.2026 Onwards**. If there any changes in publication, it will be publishing through KPPP-Portal only. For more information may be obtained from the office during working hours. Information published in Website is final.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Public Works Department,
Special Division, Shivamogga
DIPR/SMG/No. 128-04/ Zenkar/2026-27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಆಡಳಿತ ವೈದ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಯವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಉಪವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಕುಂದಾಪುರ, 576201
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: (08254) 230333/234808 ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: ghkundapura@yahoo.com

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ/ದಿನಾಂಕ: ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ನಂ:ಸಾಆಕು/ಪ್ರ.ರಾ/12026–27 2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಔಷದ ಖರೀದಿಗಾಗಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನ ದಿನಾಂಕ 28–04–2026, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರ: 2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಔಷದ ಖರೀದಿಗಾಗಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನ ದಿನಾಂಕ 28–04–2026, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ: ರೂ. 80,00,000/–, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ: ರೂ. 2,00,000/–, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆರಂಭ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28–04–2026, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: 12–05–2026 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 4.30 ರವರೆಗೆ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯಲು ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: 13–05–2026 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯಲು ಸ್ಥಳ: ಆಡಳಿತ ವೈದ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಉಪವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಕುಂದಾಪುರ

ಸಹಿ/– ಆಡಳಿತ ವೈದ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ,
ಉಪವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ,
ಕುಂದಾಪುರ–576201, ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
ವಾಸಾಇ/ಸನಿಉ/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/70/26–27 ದಿ: 28.04.2026

Government of Karnataka
Karnataka Public Works, Department, Sirasi Division(U.K), Karnataka Ph: 08384-223164, Fax: 08384-224100
No. PWD/SR./Dn/AE/IFT/ 4059CMIDP/2025-26/226 **Date: 18.04.2026**

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT) (SHORT TERM) KW-4
e-TENDER NOTIFICATION (2nd Call)

(1) The Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Sirasi invites tenders from eligible tenderers, for the construction of works detailed in the Table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for any or all of the works given in the Table. **The price tender which will be opened only if the Tenderer is found to be qualified to execute the tendered works. The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Instructions to Tenderers to qualify for award of the contract. (26.03.2021)** (2) Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-Procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/index.seam** under login for Contractors: (3) Tenders must be accompanied by EMD Declaration form Proforma attached (4) Tenders must be electronically submitted (on-line through internet) with in the date and time published in e-procurement portal. The technical bid will be opened after prescribed time and date in the eprocurement portal, in the presence of the Tenderers who wish to attend at the Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Department, SIRSI Division. (5) Other details can be seen in the tender documents
(Total: 1 Work)
(1) Last date and time for Tender Queries/Clarifications: **28-04-2026 up to 16.00.00** (2) Last Date and Time for receipt of tenders: **29-04-2026 up to 16.00.00** (3) Date and Time for opening of Technical Bid: **30-04-2026 @ 16.30.00** (4) Date and Time for opening of Financial Bid: **02-05-2026 @ 16.00.00**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Public Work Department Division
Sirsi (Uttara Kannada)
DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/80/26-27 dt. 27.04.2026

Bangalore West City Corporation
Malleshwaram Zone
Office of the Executive Engineer, Basavanagudi Division,
BWCC building, Chennamanakere Achchukattu, Vidyapeeta, BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore-85. Telephone No: 080-26792218, Email: bwcceebg@gmail.com

No. EE(BG)/KPPP/TEND/01/2026-27 Date: 27.04.2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK KPPP only) (Single Cover System)

The Executive Engineer, Basavangudi Division, BWCC invites tender on behalf of the Commissioner, BWCC, Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers registered contractors of Bengaluru West City Corporation or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD or any state Governmental Organization for the execution of works detailed in the table below.

Sl.No.	Name of the Package
1	Establishment of temporary Mansoon control room in Hanumantha nagara Sub-Division (ward nos. 99, 100, 101 and 102-each ward 2.50 lakhs). Amount Put to tender (Rs in lakhs): **9.04.** EMD (in Rs): **23,000/-.** Period of Completion: **04 Months.**
2	Establishment of temporary Mansoon control room in Srinivasa nagara Sub-Division (Ward Nos. 97, 103 and 104-each ward 2.50 lakhs). Amount Put to tender (Rs in lakhs): **6.82.** EMD (in Rs): **17,500/-.** Period of Completion: **04 Months.**
3	Establishment of temporary Mansoon control room in Kathriguppe Sub-Division (ward nos. 95, 96 and 98- each ward 2.50 lakhs). Amount Put to tender (Rs in lakhs): **6.82.** EMD (in Rs): **17,500/-.** Period of Completion: **04 Months.**

Calendar of events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **From 29.04.2026 at 15.00 Hrs onwards. (2)** Last Date & Time for uploading tender documents: **On 08.05.2026 upto 16.00 Hrs. (3)** Pre bid meeting will be held on **04.05.2026 at 16.00 Hrs** in the **office of Executive Engineer,** Basavanagudi Division, BWCC building, Chennamanakere Achchukattu, Vidyapeeta, BSK 3rd stage, Bangalore-560085. **(4)** Opening of Tender: **On 11.05.2026 at 11.00 Hrs.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Basavanagudi Division,
Malleshwaram Zone, BWCC.

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ
ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಆನೇಕಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದೂ: 080–27833730
E-Mail: itstaff_ulb_hebbagodi@yahoo.com | Website: www.hebbagodicity.mrc.gov.in
ಸಂ:ಹೆ.ನ.ಸ/ತಾ.ಶಾ/ಟೆ.ನೋ/ಸಿ.ಆರ್/01/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27.04.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ ನಗರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ನಗರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 04 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ನಿಯಮ 1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿ 2000 ರನ್ವಯ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ. 1 ರಿಂದ 03 ರವರೆಗಿನ ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28.04.2026** ರಿಂದ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13.05.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13.05.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14.05.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ** ಆಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ. 4ರ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28.04.2026** ರಿಂದ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.05.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.05.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.05.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆ** ನಂತರ ಆಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಸೂಚನಾ ಫಲಕದಲ್ಲಿ ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಬಹುದು.

1	DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT 56309/ CALL-2 (Reserved for ST)
2	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT54423/CALL-2
3	DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT54473/CALL-2
4	DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT57722

ಸಹಿ/– ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಸುಜಾತ ಹರೀಶ್, ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ.
ಸಹಿ/– ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಸುಜಾತ ಕೆ.ಪಿ. ರಾಜು, ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ.
ಸಹಿ/– ಶ್ರೀ ರಾಜೇಂದ್ರ ಬಿ.ಎಲ್, ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು, ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಜಿವಿ/392/2026–27

QUICK READ

Pakistan denies involvement in deadly border strikes

Kabul

Tensions rose between Afghanistan and Pakistan after the Taliban accused Pakistan of carrying out cross-border attacks in Kunar province, killing four people and injuring many. The strikes reportedly hit civilian areas, including homes and a university in Asadabad. Pakistan denied the claims, calling them false and saying any military action would be clearly announced. Officials also reported injuries on their side due to gunfire. The incident comes during fragile peace talks following a recent ceasefire. Ongoing clashes and mutual accusations continue to strain relations, raising concerns over stability along the border region.

Shooting suspect charged with attempted assassination

Washington DC

A 31-year-old man, Cole Tomas Allen, has been charged with attempting to assassinate US President Donald Trump after a shooting at the White House Correspondents' Dinner. The incident took place at the Washington Hilton, where top leaders were present. Officials said the suspect breached security and fired shots before being quickly stopped by Secret Service personnel. One officer was injured but protected by a vest. The President and other guests were safely evacuated. Authorities said the accused faces multiple serious charges. Investigations are ongoing, and officials praised security forces for their swift and effective response.

IndiGo resumes India-China direct flight services

Guangzhou

An IndiGo flight from Delhi landed in Guangzhou, marking the restart of direct services between India and China. The move restores important air links and is expected to ease travel for passengers. Officials said the route will support growing demand as relations between the two countries improve. Alongside this, Air China has also resumed flights between Beijing and Delhi. More services by other airlines are being added to strengthen connectivity. The development reflects increasing cooperation in aviation and trade. Authorities believe the restored routes will boost tourism, business travel, and overall economic ties between both nations.

Aussie min issues urgent plea for reef protection

Watt urges urgent action to save the Great Barrier Reef, highlighting its nine-billion-dollar economic value and the critical need for ramped-up conservation efforts.

CANBERRA

Australia's Environment Minister, Murray Watt, issued a stirring call, declaring that humanity must be "at its best" to save the Great Barrier Reef.

Speaking at a foundation event, Watt warned that failing to protect the world's largest coral system would constitute "gross negligence," calling it the nation's most vital natural treasure.

The reef is currently battling a barrage of threats, including rising ocean temperatures from climate change, severe storms, and poor water quality. It also faces biological dangers from invasive crown-of-thorns starfish and the ongoing impact of commercial fishing. Watt emphasized that losing the reef is simply not an option, given its immense importance to both the planet and the Australian economy.Beyond its environmental beauty, the reef is a financial powerhouse. New research reveals it contributed over nine billion Australian dollars to the national economy in the last year alone. It also supports 77,000 full-time jobs, ranking as the country's fifth-largest employer.

To combat these risks, the federal government has joined forces with the Queensland state government to launch a major five-year review of the "2050 Sustainability Plan." This framework, established in 2015, directs all government funding and conservation efforts. While recent reports sent to UNESCO show progress in managing starfish outbreaks and improving water quality, Watt insists that efforts must be ramped up. The minister's message was clear, protecting this iconic natural wonder requires a global commitment to sustainable practices before it is too late.

South Korea pledges to fix ally issues

President Lee Jae-myung pledged to resolve diplomatic friction with allies while asserting South Korea's sovereign strength and economic resilience.

SEOUL

President Lee Jae Myung announced that South Korea aims to resolve ongoing friction with its traditional allies through a lens of mutual respect and sovereign confidence. Speaking at a Cabinet meeting, Lee emphasized that international cooperation must be built on "common sense and principles" to ensure healthy, future-oriented relationships.

The President's comments follow recent diplomatic tension with Washington. Reports suggest the United States partially suspended sharing intelligence regarding North Korea after a South Korean minister publicly identified a specific site as a uranium enrichment center. While the U.S. suspected a leak of classified data, Seoul maintains the information came from public sources. Additionally, a major data breach at the e-commerce giant Coupang has added further strain to the bilateral relationship.Amid these challenges, President Lee pivoted to a message of national strength. He highlighted South Korea's military as the fifth-strongest in the world, noting that the country's defense spending now dwarfs North Korea's entire economy. Lee remains committed to regaining wartime operational control of his nation's troops from the U.S. by 2030, a power held by Washington since the Korean War.

On the home front, Lee shared positive news regarding the economy, which grew by 1.7 percent in the first quarter. Despite this recovery, he warned that high oil prices and global conflicts still pose risks. He urged officials to remain vigilant, promising that the government would work tirelessly to protect national security and sustain economic momentum during these uncertain times.

Cambodian-Thai diplomats met in Brunei to restore trust and discuss maritime disputes following recent deadly border conflicts.

NEIGHBOURS MEET TO DISCUSS TENSE BORDER ISSUES

PHNOM PENH

Top diplomats from Cambodia and Thailand met in Brunei this week to navigate a delicate path toward peace following recent military conflict.

Cambodian Foreign Minister Prak Sokhonn and his Thai counterpart, Sihasak Phuangketkeow, held "candid discussions" on the sidelines of an international summit to restore trust between the two nations.

The high-level talks come at a critical time. Only months ago, in December 2025, the two neighbors agreed to a ceasefire after three weeks of border fighting resulted in casualties on both sides. Sokhonn emphasized that lasting stability requires a "genuine commitment" to international law and the ASEAN Charter to ensure unity within the region.

However, a new diplomatic rift is opening over the sea. Cambodia expressed "deep regret" over reports that Thailand may unilaterally withdraw from a 2001 agreement regarding overlapping maritime claims. This agreement was designed to allow both countries to jointly explore energy resources in the Gulf of Thailand. Thai officials argued that the old deal has yielded no progress and suggest negotiating under newer United Nations maritime frameworks instead.

While the Thai cabinet still needs to finalize the decision to scrap the maritime deal, the Cambodian government remains firmly committed to the original spirit of cooperation. As both nations look to move past the shadows of recent violence, these discussions represent a vital effort to replace military confrontation with diplomatic dialogue.

Both leaders agree that maintaining peace is essential for the economic prosperity of the entire Southeast Asian community.

ISIS claims attack killing 29 in Nigeria

ADAMAWA

The Islamic State (ISIS) has officially claimed responsibility for a brutal massacre that left at least 29 people dead in Nigeria's Adamawa state. The group issued a statement following the assault on the Guyaku community, located within the Gombi Local Government Area, where armed gunmen targeted unsuspecting residents in a wave of violence.State Governor Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri visited the grieving community to assess the damage and offer support to survivors. Describing the incident as "tragic and unacceptable," the Governor confirmed the death toll and condemned the killers. He called the assault a "cowardly act" and an affront to humanity, promising that those responsible for the bloodshed would face justice.

High speed train crushes stalled Jakarta commuter

JAKARTA

At least seven people are confirmed dead and dozens injured after a high-speed flagship train slammed into a stalled commuter service on the outskirts of Jakarta. Emergency teams worked desperately to liberate survivors pinned beneath twisted metal, with officials warning that the death toll will likely rise as rescuers reach more "mangled carriages."The disaster began with a bizarre chain reaction at a level crossing. According to rail operator KAI, a taxi clipped a Jakarta-Cikarang commuter train, causing the local service to stall on the tracks. Shortly after, the Argo Bromo Anggrek, a premier high-speed express traveling between the capital and Surabaya, plowed into the stationary cars. The impact was so severe that search and rescue head Mohammad Syafii described the scene as having "limited space" for even the most basic evacuation maneuvers.Witnesses watched as responders used angle grinders to cut through steel frames to reach those trapped inside. The National Search and Rescue Agency (BASARNAS) noted that the process is moving "slowly" to avoid further injury to those still alive within the debris.

King Charles visits DC amid ally tension

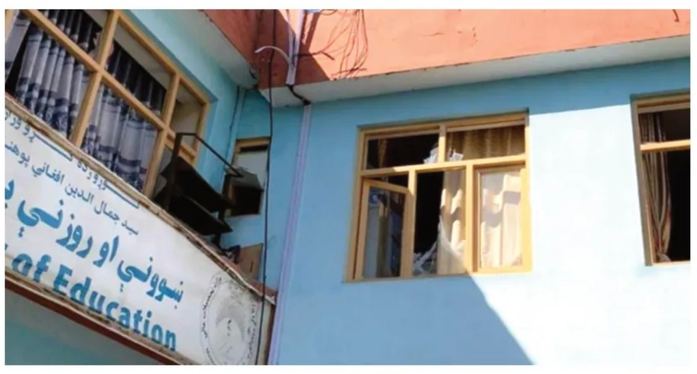
WASHINGTON

King Charles III and Queen Camilla arrived in the United States for a historic four-day visit, landing at a time of both celebration and significant diplomatic strain. The visit marks the first time a British monarch has stepped onto American soil in nearly twenty years, arriving just as the US prepares to celebrate its 250th anniversary of independence.The Royal couple was welcomed at the White House by President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump. While the meeting began with traditional "soft power" diplomacy, including tea and a tour of the White House beehives, the backdrop is dominated by a rare military rift. Tensions have spiked over the 2026 conflict with Iran; while the Trump administration has favored aggressive military action, the UK government has pushed for de-escalation. This disagreement has led to a visible cooling of relations between the two long-term allies.

Historians are drawing parallels to Queen Elizabeth II's 1957 visit, which aimed to repair ties after the Suez Crisis. Once again, a British monarch is being used as a "reset button" to soothe a frustrated U.S. administration through the prestige of the Crown.

Pak missile strike on varsity injures 30

KABUL



Afghanistan's Ministry of Higher Education issued a scathing condemnation following a Pakistani military missile strike on Sayed Jamaluddin Afghan University. The attack, which occurred in the eastern Kunar province, reportedly injured nearly thirty students and professors while leaving the campus infrastructure in ruins.The Ministry described the strike as a "cowardly and ruthless" act that violates both Islamic principles and international law. Officials argued that the barrage was not just a military action, but a direct assault on the fundamental foundations of Afghan education. Higher Education Minister Neda Mohammad Nadeem has since ordered immediate medical priority for the victims and vowed to use all available resources to protect academic and religious institutions.Independent monitors, including the International Human Rights Foundation (IHRF), reported even higher casualty figures, suggesting up to 48 people were affected. Witnesses described a scene of total chaos as missiles struck while classes were in session, sending students running for cover.

Mayor condemns Queens subway shooting of teen

NEW YORK

Mayor Zohran Mamdani issued a stern warning that "violence has no place on our subways" following a harrowing shooting that left a 15-year-old boy wounded on a crowded Queens train. The attack occurred during the height of the rush hour on a Manhattan-bound A train as it pulled into the 80th Street station, sparking widespread panic among commuters.

The New York City Police Department (NYPD) is currently questioning two persons of interest, though a weapon has not yet been recovered. Investigators believe the gunfire erupted following a heated verbal dispute inside the train car. Witnesses described a scene of "pandemonium" as riders dove for the floor to avoid the bullets. "Believe me, they were not firecrackers," one witness told reporters, describing how passengers fled in terror once the doors finally opened at the platform.The young victim was rushed to Jamaica Hospital and is thankfully expected to survive. Mayor Mamdani, who was briefed on the situation shortly after the incident, emphasized his administration's commitment to protecting children on their daily commutes. He called the shooting "unacceptable" and vowed to increase safety measures throughout the transit network.Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz joined the Mayor in condemning the violence, highlighting the urgent need to remove illegal firearms from the hands of young people. As the 80th Street station was cordoned off for evidence collection, city officials reassured a nervous public that every resource would be used to ensure the subway remains a safe space for all New Yorkers.

Admiral warns China is pacing while US fights in Iran

WASHINGTON

Admiral Samuel J. Paparo, Commander of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM), delivered a sobering warning to Congress, cautioning that China's military remains a profound and growing threat even as American resources are heavily diverted to "Operation Epic Fury" in Iran. During his testimony before the House Armed Services Committee, Paparo stressed that while the U.S. is engaged in the Middle East, the Indo-Pacific remains the "decisive theater" for American security.

The primary concern among lawmakers is the rapid depletion of the U.S. "magazine depth." Estimates suggest the war against Tehran is costing nearly $1 billion per day, consuming finite stocks of precision-guided missiles and munitions that would be vital in a conflict over Taiwan. Admiral Paparo admitted there are "finite limits" to current stockpiles, though he maintained confidence that resources are being used judiciously.

VANISHING WORKFORCE

Afghan faces massive loss of female workers

KABUL

A chilling new report from UNICEF warns that Afghanistan is on the brink of a professional collapse, risking the loss of over 25,000 female teachers and healthcare workers by 2030.

The analysis, highlights the devastating "cost of inaction" as strict bans on girls' education and women's employment continue to stifle the nation's future.

According to the data, the country could lose 20,000 educators and 5,400 medical professionals within the next four years. This shortage is fueled by a dual crisis, experienced women are retiring or leaving the workforce, while the next generation of girls is barred from the secondary and higher education needed to replace them. Since 2021, over one million girls have been denied the right to learn, a number expected to double by 2030 if policies do not change.

The impact on public health and safety is particularly dire. In many parts of Afghanistan, cultural norms prevent women from seeking medical care from men. As female doctors and nurses disappear, maternal and newborn health services will inevitably decline. UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell noted that these restrictions are already costing the Afghan economy roughly $84 million every year. UNICEF is urgently calling on the de facto authorities to lift the ban on secondary education. Without a swift reversal, the agency warns that the country will lose an entire generation of skilled professionals, leaving schools empty and hospitals unable to provide essential care for the nation's most vulnerable women and children.

QUICK READ

ED attaches Rs 3,034 cr assets in RCOM fraud case

NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has attached assets worth Rs 3,034 crore in the Reliance Communications bank fraud case linked to Anil Ambani Group. Officials said the action was taken under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act to protect public funds and prevent misuse of assets. With this, total attachments in related cases have crossed Rs 19,000 crore. The investigation began after complaints from major banks over unpaid loans. Authorities found properties and shares linked to the group. The move aims to recover losses faced by banks. Further investigation is ongoing as officials continue to track financial irregularities.

Google wallet now supports Aadhaar digital ID

NEW DELHI

Google has introduced a new feature allowing users in India to store Aadhaar verifiable credentials in Google Wallet for secure identity checks. The service, developed with UIDAI, lets users share only required details when needed. It can be used for age proof, online services, and applications. Partners include PVR INOX, BharatMatrimony, and Atlys, offering easier verification and access. Officials said the feature focuses on privacy and security. More services are expected soon. The move is part of Google's global push to expand digital identity tools, making everyday verification faster, simpler, and more convenient for users across platforms.

Maruti Suzuki posts record sales, dividend in FY26

NEW DELHI

Maruti Suzuki India reported its highest-ever annual sales, revenue, and profit for FY26, marking strong growth in the automobile sector. The company announced a final dividend of Rs 140 per share, subject to shareholder approval. Total revenue rose by over 20 percent, while net profit slightly increased compared to last year. The automaker sold over 24 lakh vehicles, including strong domestic and export performance. It also remained India's top passenger vehicle exporter for the fifth year.

Bullet train plan promises faster south connectivity

VISAKHAPATNAM

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced plans for a high-speed bullet train network in South India, aiming to reduce travel time and boost regional growth. The proposed routes will connect major cities like Hyderabad, Chennai, Bengaluru, Pune, and Mumbai. Officials said the project will create a strong economic network across regions. The minister also confirmed that the South Coast Railway Zone will be notified on June 1, 2026. Plans to expand railway lines and modernise stations are underway. Authorities believe improved rail and digital connectivity will support development, tourism, and business, making travel faster and more efficient.

Indian energy giants strike oil in Libya

Oil India and Indian Oil have discovered significant oil and gas reserves in Libya's Ghadames Basin.

NEW DELHI

The Indian government announced that a consortium of national oil companies has made a significant oil and gas discovery in Libya's Ghadames Basin.

The success of Oil India Limited (OIL) and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) is being hailed as a major milestone, reflecting the growing global footprint of

India's energy sector.

The discovery occurred in "Contract Area 95/96," where a well was drilled to a depth of 8,440 feet. Early testing produced impressive results, yielding 13 million cubic feet of gas and 327 barrels of condensate per day. This project was a collaborative effort with SIPEX Algeria serving as the operator, highlighting the success of strategic international partnerships.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas congratulated the firms on social media, noting that the find is a "promising development" for India's long-term energy security. The government is currently pushing to increase domestic crude production to 35 million metric tonnes by 2030 to meet rising demand. By acquiring overseas assets like the one in Libya, India aims to reduce its heavy reliance on energy imports.

The news sent ripples through the stock market, with Oil India shares jumping more than 4 percent to an intraday high of Rs 497 on the BSE. While Indian Oil shares remained relatively flat, the overall sentiment remains high. This discovery not only strengthens India's presence in North Africa but also serves as a testament to the technical capabilities of its state-run energy giants on the world stage.

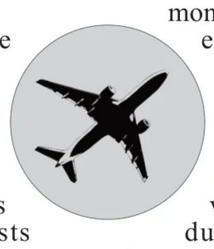
Indian airlines may cut flights after fuel hike

NEW DELHI

Domestic airlines are currently in a 'wait-and-watch' mode, assessing how rising fuel expenses will impact their bottom lines.

Indian airlines are bracing for a potential reduction in flight capacity as they await the next revision of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices in May.

According to reports, a sharp increase in jet fuel costs could force carriers to rationalize their operations, particularly by cutting frequencies on less profitable, short-haul routes.



Domestic airlines are currently in a "wait-and-watch" mode, assessing how rising fuel expenses will impact their bottom lines. Industry sources suggest that if costs jump substantially, routes with consistently low passenger occupancy will be the first to face the axe. This caution persists despite recent government efforts to cushion the blow, including a 25 percent reduction in parking and landing fees at major airports and a temporary cap on April fuel price hikes.

However, the outlook remains volatile. The Ministry of Finance recently notified an increase in the duty on ATF, raising it from Rs 29.5 to Rs 42 per litre. If the government decides to withdraw the current 25 percent cap on monthly price increases, experts warn that domestic flight cancellations could spike sharply.

India's aviation sector is particularly vulnerable right now due to the nation's heavy reliance on oil imports, which cover over 85 percent of its needs.

With geopolitical tensions in West Asia threatening global supply chains, airlines are being forced to re-evaluate their networks.

For travelers, this could mean fewer choices and higher fares as carriers prioritize financial survival over expansive flight schedules in a high-cost environment.

Adani Group pledges billions for India's AI

VISAKHAPATNAM

In a massive boost to the nation's digital future, the Adani Group announced a $100 billion commitment to build the infrastructure required for India's artificial intelligence (AI) growth.

Speaking at the foundation ceremony for a new Google AI Data Centre, Director Jeet Adani emphasized that for India to lead the global AI race, it must build massive, homegrown facilities.

The centerpiece of this ambition is a $15 billion joint project with Google Cloud to construct a data center campus in Visakhapatnam. Set to be the largest facility of its kind outside the United

States, the project represents one of the biggest foreign investments in Indian history. It will utilize the same cutting-edge technology that powers global giants like Google Search and YouTube.

Jeet Adani highlighted that the "affordability of intelligence" starts with energy. The Adani Group plans to create an integrated platform linking energy generation and digital networks, all powered by clean, reliable power. "As the cost of computing falls, innovation accelerates," he noted, adding that cheap energy is the key to making AI accessible to everyone, not just large corporations.

Currently, India's total data center capacity sits at roughly 1.3 gigawatts. Remarkably, the Visakhapatnam site alone is designed to reach 1 gigawatt. Comparing the city to the tech-heavy Bengaluru, Adani predicted that Visakhapatnam will anchor India's AI revolution. By building at this unprecedented scale, the group aims to democratize AI, ensuring the technology transforms society and fosters inclusive economic growth across the country.

Manufacturing hubs drive India's bold economic push

NEW DELHI

India is betting big on integrated manufacturing hubs to skyrocket its economy from $3.7 trillion to a staggering $35 trillion by 2047. According to reports, the government aims to increase manufacturing's share of the GDP to 25 percent, up from its current level of roughly 17 percent.

This ambitious shift relies on "system-level planning" rather than individual projects. By building massive industrial corridors like the Delhi–Mumbai and Vizag–Chennai lines, the government is creating spatial ecosystems that combine world-class logistics with regulatory support. To fuel this, capital expenditure has seen a historic rise, jumping from Rs 2 lakh crore a decade ago to Rs 12.2 lakh crore for the 2026–27 fiscal year.

Global investors are taking notice, ranking India as the world's third most sought-after manufacturing destination. The quality of production is also evolving, nearly half of the country's manufacturing value now comes from medium- and high-technology activities. Meanwhile, the nation's 7.47 crore MSMEs remain the backbone of this growth.

India unveils bold digital roadmap for 2047

NEW DELHI

NITI Aayog launched a strategic roadmap titled "DPI@2047," charting a course to transform India into a developed nation through advanced Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI). Developed with Deloitte and the EkStep Foundation, the plan shifts the national focus from simple digital inclusion to a new era of massive productivity and livelihood-led growth.

The roadmap outlines a two-phase journey. The immediate priority, DPI 2.0 (2025–2035), aims to break structural bottlenecks in agriculture, health, and small businesses. This will be followed by DPI 3.0 (2035–2047), focusing on broad-based prosperity. The goal is to move beyond basic digital identity and payments, creating "connective infrastructure" that allows innovation to reach every citizen and small enterprise at lightning speed.

To achieve this, the government identified four execution pillars like district-level demand, scaling tech entrepreneurship, leveraging artificial intelligence, and improving data use. Principal Scientific Adviser Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood noted that India's ability to lead will be defined by turning science into "trusted public outcomes." By democratizing AI and open systems, the plan ensures that frontier technologies are not just for the elite but are used to raise living standards nationwide.

India's industry hiring jumps as jobs multiply

NEW DELHI

India's Manufacturing, Engineering, and Infrastructure (MEI) sector is witnessing a massive hiring boom, recording a 6.6 percent net employment gain for the first half of the 2026–27 fiscal year.

A new report reveals that roughly 70 percent of employers in these fields plan to expand their workforce, fueled by aggressive investments in semiconductors and clean energy.

The surge is largely driven by government-led initiatives like the National Manufacturing Mission. Massive semiconductor projects in Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka are expected to create nearly one million jobs by 2028, spanning chip design, testing, and supply chain roles. Experts say the sector has moved past simple recovery and is now in a phase of high-speed growth, particularly as factories adopt "Industry 4.0" technologies such as automation and digital plant operations.

Geographically, Chennai is leading the charge with a 24 percent intent to hire, followed closely by Pune and Bengaluru.

These cities are benefiting from their proximity to major manufacturing hubs and research centers.

Because the demand for skilled engineers and project managers is so high, the report projects that salary raises in this sector will hit 9.4 percent, outpacing traditional heavyweights like the IT and banking industries.

With 46 percent of companies maintaining stable headcounts and 33 percent actively growing, the data suggests this isn't just a temporary spike but a sustained, investment-driven expansion.

As India cements its role as a global manufacturing hub, the MEI sector is fast becoming the primary engine for high-quality, high-paying jobs across the country.

Govt orders heatwave protections for workers

NEW DELHI

As temperatures soar across the country, the Ministry of Labour and Employment issued a mandatory heatwave advisory, ordering States and Union Territories to implement immediate safety measures for the nation's workforce.

The directive specifically targets outdoor and labor-intensive industries, such as construction, mining, and brick kilns, where workers face the highest risk of heat-related illness.

The government has mandated a multi-sectoral approach, requiring employers to provide adequate drinking water, shaded rest areas, and cooling arrangements at workplaces.

The ministry is placing a heavy emphasis on "vulnerable" groups, including daily wage earners and casual laborers who often work at "labor chowks." States are encouraged to launch public awareness campaigns using posters and banners to display safety messages and emergency contact numbers.

To ensure compliance, all organizations and state departments must submit fortnightly status reports to the Ministry. This monitoring system is designed to ensure that the guidelines translate into real-world protection, preventing the tragic fatalities often associated with India's increasingly severe summer heatwaves.

OPENAI-MICROSOFT REWRITE THEIR MULTI-BILLION-DOLLAR DEAL

WASHINGTON

In a major shift for the AI industry, Microsoft and OpenAI announced a significant overhaul of their multi-billion dollar partnership.

The revised deal effectively ends the exclusivity that previously tethered OpenAI's cutting-edge models solely to Microsoft's ecosystem, granting the ChatGPT creator newfound freedom to work with rival cloud providers.

The amended agreement is designed to provide "flexibility and certainty" as the AI landscape becomes increasingly competitive. While Microsoft remains the primary cloud partner, OpenAI is now permitted to offer its products across multiple platforms.

This move allows OpenAI to diversify its enterprise reach while easing the antitrust scrutiny that has dogged the relationship in recent months.

Despite these changes, the two companies remain deeply intertwined. Microsoft will continue to be a major shareholder and will collaborate with OpenAI on massive infrastructure projects, including next-generation silicon development and expanding global data center capacity.

OpenAI will also continue making revenue share payments to Microsoft through 2030, though these are now subject to a total cap.

India set to become global electronics, semiconductor hub'

VISAKHAPATNAM

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw declared that India is set to become a premier "trusted supply chain partner" for the global electronics industry.

Speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Google Cloud India AI Hub, Vaishnaw emphasized that the country is rapidly moving beyond its reputation for IT services to become a powerhouse in high-tech manufacturing.

The Minister highlighted India's explosive growth in mobile manufacturing, noting that local production now meets nearly 50 percent of domestic demand. Furthermore, under the National Semiconductor Mission, commercial production has officially commenced on Indian soil. Vaishnaw extended a direct invitation to global tech giants to move their production of servers, GPUs, and chips to India, citing the country's reliable policy framework and visionary leadership.

The $15 billion Google project in Visakhapatnam is a cornerstone of this strategy. Vaishnaw predicted that these investments would transform Visakhapatnam into "AI Patnam" (AI City), serving as a global hub for Artificial Intelligence, Space, and Quantum technology.

Key features of the development include:

- **Hyperscale AI Data Centre:** A 1 GW facility developed in partnership with AdaniConneX and Airtel Nxtra.
- **Massive Land Allocation:** The Andhra Pradesh government has provided 600 acres across Turluvada, Rambilli, and Adavivaram.
- **Global Connectivity:** Google is laying three subsea cables from Visakhapatnam, linking India directly to digital routes in Australia, the Middle East, Europe, Africa, and the U.S.

THE MEMORY BOTTLENECK

Global chip shortage squeezes smartphone market

SEOUL

A critical global shortage of memory chips is reshaping the smartphone industry, creating a sharp divide between tech giants and their Chinese rivals.

While the overall market saw a 4.1% decline in shipments during the first quarter, Samsung and Apple have emerged as the only major players to post year-on-year growth, leveraging their massive supply chain influence to navigate the crisis.

The bottleneck centers on Low-Power DRAM (LPDDR), a vital component for mobile devices. Demand for these chips has skyrocketed as

AI leader Nvidia hoards supply for its next-generation "Vera Rubin" GPU platforms. This competition has sent prices soaring, leaving manufacturers with a difficult choice, pay a premium or face production stalls.

Industry analysts point out that Samsung and Apple are uniquely positioned to survive this "chip crunch." Apple uses its "financial firepower" to lock in supply through massive prepayments, while Samsung relies on internal coordination between its chip-making and phone-making divisions. In contrast, Chinese vendors like Xiaomi, Oppo, and Vivo are losing ground. Xiaomi alone saw shipments drop by 8 million units this quarter. These companies, which rely heavily on budget and mid-range models, cannot easily pass rising component costs onto consumers without losing sales volume.

Brand	Shipments (Millions)	Market share
Samsung	62.8	21.7%
Apple	61.1	19.6%
Broad Market	289.7	-4.1% (YOY)

The outlook for the rest of the year remains grim. Reports predicts the shortage will drag global shipments down to 1.12 billion units, the lowest level since 2013. Experts believe this represents a permanent shift in the industry, where design and camera quality once determined a phone's success, the ability to reliably secure core components has now become the ultimate competitive advantage. Market stabilization is not expected until at least late 2027.

AXAR PATEL BLAMES LUCK, HESITATION FOR DC COLLAPSE

NEW DELHI

Delhi Capitals captain Axar Patel blamed a combination of hesitation, pressure and "bad luck" for his side's dramatic batting collapse against Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the IPL clash.

Axar said the team never recovered after losing wickets in quick succession. Delhi were left reeling at six wickets for just eight runs during a disastrous phase that effectively ended the contest.

The skipper admitted the scars of the previous game, where Delhi failed to defend a massive 264-run total against Punjab Kings, may have subconsciously affected the batters.

"I think because of what happened in the last game there was some hesitation. Other than that, I think it was bad luck. No batter could really settle because wickets kept falling every one or two balls," Axar said.

He explained that conditions changed rapidly during the innings. According to him, there was considerable swing with the new ball before the pitch eased out later. However, by then, the damage had already been done.

"In the first over there was swing. Later, once boundaries came, the swing reduced. But when you score only around 60 or 70, bowlers also feel pressure because they know the total is too low," he added.

Axar refused to blame the bowling attack and instead accepted that the batting unit failed to adjust to the changing conditions. He said the surface looked similar to the one used in the previous match, but weather and wind conditions made batting much tougher under lights.

The Delhi captain also confirmed that Australian fast bowler Mitchell Starc has joined the squad and is expected to be available after May 1, depending on workload management.

Backing debutant Sahil Parakh despite his early dismissal, Axar said the youngster showed promise during training sessions and deserved support.

He also urged fans to continue backing the team despite the setback, insisting one poor performance should not lead to panic or drastic changes in the squad.

DC skipper admits early wickets and pressure changed momentum completely against Bengaluru side

Maharaj replaces injured Santner in MI squad

South African spinner joins Mumbai Indians after Santner suffers shoulder injury during recent clash

MUMBAI

Keshav Maharaj has replaced injured New Zealand all-rounder Mitchell Santner in the Mumbai Indians squad for the remainder of the IPL 2026 season.

The Indian Premier League confirmed the development after Santner was ruled out with a left shoulder injury sustained during Mumbai Indians' previous match against Chennai Super Kings at the Wankhede Stadium.

According to the IPL statement, Santner suffered the injury while attempting a catch near the boundary ropes. The New Zealand spinner had taken an impressive diving catch to dismiss Kartik Sharma off a delivery from Jasprit Bumrah, but landed awkwardly, injuring his shoulder and also appearing to hurt his head during the fall.

He was later substituted by Shardul Thakur under the concussion substitute rule as concerns grew over his condition.

Mumbai Indians head coach Mahela Jayawardene said Santner experienced dizziness after returning to the dressing room and was immediately taken for scans. "I think he hit his head first, neck, obviously the shoulder as well. He went for a scan because once he got back, he felt dizziness. He felt that he was not stable, so we took him for a scan," Jayawardene told reporters after the game.

Maharaj, one of South Africa's most experienced spin-bowling all-rounders, recently featured in the T20I series against New Zealand. The left-arm spinner has limited IPL experience, having played two matches for Rajasthan Royals during the 2024 season.

The IPL said Maharaj joins Mumbai Indians for a fee of ₹75 lakh as the five-time champions look to strengthen their spin department ahead of the crucial final phase of the tournament.

Mumbai Indians will next face Sunrisers Hyderabad on Wednesday as they continue their push for a playoff berth.

Parth Jindal urges DC to stay united after crushing defeat against RCB

NEW DELHI

Parth Jindal has urged Delhi Capitals to remain united and keep believing after the franchise suffered a humiliating nine-wicket defeat against Royal Challengers Bengaluru in IPL 2026 at the Arun Jaitley Stadium.

Delhi endured one of the worst collapses in IPL history after being bowled out for just 75 runs in 16.3 overs. The home side was reduced to a shocking 8 for 6 within the first four overs as Josh Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar Kumar dismantled the batting line-up with a devastating spell of swing bowling.

The dramatic collapse came on the same ground where Delhi had scored 264 runs only days earlier, making the defeat even more painful for players and supporters.

Reacting after the match, Jindal broke his silence on social media and appealed to the team not to let the season slip away following the crushing setback.

"Stay together more than ever now @DelhiCapitals – really very tough to take, but we must keep fighting and keep believing," Jindal posted on X.

The defeat has placed Delhi's playoff hopes under serious pressure, with the franchise now languishing in seventh place on the points table after managing only three wins from eight matches. Their net run rate has also taken a major hit, dropping to -1.060.

Delhi captain Axar Patel admitted after the game that the team was left stunned by the sudden collapse and struggled to understand how events unfolded so quickly.

"I still don't understand what happened. Tonight was a total blackout," Axar said during the post-match presentation.

England all-rounder expected to strengthen struggling Mumbai Indians against Sunrisers Hyderabad clash Wednesday

WILL JACKS SET FOR FIRST IPL 2026 APPEARANCE AS MUMBAI SEEK CAMPAIGN REVIVAL

MUMBAI

Will Jacks is set to make his first appearance of IPL 2026 for Mumbai Indians as the five-time champions look to revive their faltering campaign against Sunrisers Hyderabad on Wednesday.

Jacks, who arrived late for the season due to international commitments, trained extensively at the Wankhede Stadium on Monday evening, strongly indicating he will be drafted straight into the playing XI for the crucial encounter.

The England all-rounder was expected to play a major role for Mumbai this season after an impressive ICC T20 World Cup campaign, where he collected four Player-of-the-Match awards. However, his delayed arrival had left fans wondering when — or even if — he would join the squad.

Mumbai's season has already slipped into dangerous territory with five defeats from seven matches, leaving little margin for further setbacks. The team's heavy home defeat to Chennai Super Kings last week only intensified pressure on the squad and leadership group. Jacks' inclusion has become even more significant following the injury to Mitchell Santner, who has been ruled out of the remainder of the tournament with a shoulder injury sustained against Chennai.

The 27-year-old is expected to provide much-needed balance to the Mumbai side. Captain Hardik Pandya has struggled to deliver consistently with the bat this season, and Jacks' aggressive finishing ability could add depth to a batting line-up that has failed to click regularly.

Apart from his batting, Jacks' off-spin may also prove crucial against Hyderabad's left-handed heavy batting unit. Mumbai management believes his all-round versatility can offer greater flexibility in team combinations during the business end of the tournament.

Head coach Mahela Jayawardene and the team leadership are hoping Jacks' arrival sparks a turnaround in fortunes as Mumbai chase momentum in a tightly contested IPL season.

For Mumbai Indians, the upcoming clash could mark a defining point — and Jacks may well become the catalyst they desperately need.

Clinical Manchester United beat Brentford to strengthen top-four grip

MANCHESTER

Manchester United produced a clinical display to defeat Brentford 2-1 at Old Trafford, moving three points clear in third place and strengthening their push for Champions League qualification.

The win also saw United pull ahead of chasing rivals Liverpool and Aston Villa, taking a significant step toward securing a top-four finish for the first time since 2024.

United made a fast start when Casemiro opened the scoring in the 11th minute, rising at the back post to head home his 11th headed goal since joining the club in 2022. Only Erling Haaland, Ollie Watkins, and Chris Wood have scored more headed goals in that period.

Brentford responded well in an open first half but were punished again just before the interval when Benjamin Šeško finished a rapid counterattack, converting a precise pass from Bruno Fernandes.

The assist was Fernandes' 19th of the Premier League season, the highest in the league, leaving him just one short of the all-time single-season record. Šeško praised the understanding between the pair after the match.

"Me and Bruno Fernandes work a lot on the training pitch and it is paying off. Having a teammate with this quality is a pleasure," he said.

Brentford improved after the break and created several chances, but poor finishing cost them a result. Their persistence was rewarded late when Mathias Jensen struck from distance in the 87th minute to set up a nervy finale.

India bow out of Uber Cup with 0–5 defeat to China

DENMARK

PV Sindhu led from the front but India Women crashed out of the Uber Cup Finals after suffering a comprehensive 0–5 defeat to China in their final Group A tie.

The result marked the end of India's campaign after an opening 2–3 loss to hosts Denmark and a convincing 4–1 win over Ukraine earlier in the group stage.

Facing the most successful team in Uber Cup history, China women's badminton team, India struggled to convert key moments despite fighting performances across matches.

Sindhu came close to turning the tie in India's favour during the opening singles against world No. 2 Wang Zhiyi. She led 18–12 in the deciding game but eventually lost 16–21, 21–19, 19–21 after a dramatic turnaround.

The defeat gave China a 1–0 lead, and the momentum never shifted thereafter.

In doubles, Priya Konjengbam and Shruti Mishra were overpowered by the world No. 1 pair Liu Sheng Shu and Tan Ning, going down 11–21, 8–21.

India's second singles player Isharani Baruah showed flashes of brilliance against Tokyo Olympic champion Chen Yufei but committed errors at crucial stages to lose 22–20, 21–13, giving China an unassailable 3–0 lead.

The pair of Treesa Jolly and Kavipriya Selvam fought hard in their doubles match but went down 10–21, 21–12, 19–21 in a closely contested encounter.

In the final singles, Devika Sihag started strongly but faded against Xu Wen Jing, losing 21–19, 17–21, 10–21.

Sindhu later reflected on her narrow loss, admitting that despite creating multiple chances, she was unable to close out the match. "We were fighting very hard for every point. I had chances, but I couldn't convert them," Sindhu said.

With this defeat, India end their Uber Cup journey on a disappointing note, while China continue their dominant run in the tournament. Attention will now shift to India's men's team, who face China in the upcoming Thomas Cup encounter.

New York City to host free World Cup fan events across all five boroughs

NEW YORK

New York City will host a series of free World Cup fan events across all five boroughs, offering residents a chance to experience the tournament atmosphere without paying steep ticket prices.

The initiative was announced by city officials, with events designed to bring the excitement of the global football spectacle closer to local communities. Each borough will host its own fan zone featuring live match screenings, entertainment, and themed activities.

The venues include Rockefeller Center in Manhattan, Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Queens, Brooklyn Bridge Park in Brooklyn, a shopping complex near Yankee Stadium in the Bronx, and a minor league baseball stadium in Staten Island. A separate fan event will also be held at Sports Illustrated Stadium, home of the New York Red Bulls, though that event will carry a $10 entry fee.

The announcement comes as officials expect the region to generate more than $3.3 billion in economic activity during the tournament. However, there are concerns that residents could be priced out of live match experiences due to high ticket and travel costs.

World Cup matches are scheduled to take place at MetLife Stadium, where transportation and access costs alone could reach up to $150 for some fans attending games. New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani, a well-known football enthusiast, announced the programme alongside New York Governor Kathy Hochul.

Sabalenka powers through Madrid while virus scare disrupts top stars

MADRID

World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka stayed on course to defend her title at the Madrid Open, overcoming a tough challenge from Naomi Osaka while several top players were hit by a mysterious stomach virus sweeping through the tournament.

Sabalenka defeated Osaka 6-7 (1), 6-3, 6-2 in a gripping fourth-round match on Monday, extending her winning streak to 15 matches and reaching yet another WTA quarterfinal. Despite dropping the first set, the Belarusian regrouped strongly to dominate the final two sets.

However, much of the attention in Madrid has shifted off the court due to a health scare affecting multiple players. Iga Świątek, Coco Gauff and Marin Čilić were among those reportedly affected by a stomach virus or possible food poisoning.

The outbreak has sparked concern in the locker rooms, with rumours suggesting contaminated food—possibly shrimp tacos—could be responsible.

Sabalenka, however, has so far avoided any illness and said she is taking strict precautions with her diet.

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